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OPINION METER

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21 days to go
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WORLD



Doubts linger over who was responsible for the Syria gas attack.

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Charlie Hunnam will likely bare all and engage in some graphic sex scenes.

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Task force formed to prepare for 2014 transition. **PAGE 2**
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\$415K 'bad debt' on CPA books

» Customers' leases, former board members' travel advances found unpaid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many customers of the Commonwealth Ports Authority—both at its airport and seaport facilities—have been found owing the agency a huge amount, along with some former board members who owe CPA for their travel advances.

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Syria adds to Congress' already heavy fall agenda

By CHARLES BABINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' September agenda, already destined to be tense and dramatic, got worse while lawmakers were away this summer. Now they end their five-week recess by plunging into an emotional debate over whether to launch missile strikes against Syria.

That will leave them even less time to meet looming deadlines on budget problems, the big issue that's been building for months. And then, just maybe, they will turn to immigration.

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BACK-TO-BACK HOUSE, SENATE SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY

Inos gets broad reprogramming power

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A last-minute addition yesterday to a "compromise" budget bill from a joint legislative panel gave Gov. Eloy S. Inos the authority to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget to remedy a

» Govt risks defaulting on La Fiesta's \$200K land lease

"zeroed out" account to pay La Fiesta's \$200,000 land lease for fiscal year 2014, among other things.

Reprogramming up to 50 percent of

the annual budget is an increase from the 25 percent already provided for by the Planning and Budgeting Act.

The House and Senate will hold back-to-back sessions at 1:30pm Wednesday to tackle the \$123.4-million spending plan.

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Several cleanups later, the colorful sign in front of the former La Fiesta Mall is visible once again to passing motorists and pedestrians in San Roque. A six-member conference committee on the fiscal year 2014 budget reached yesterday a last-minute compromise giving the governor authority to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget to help ensure the government does not default on a \$200,000 La Fiesta annual land lease payment.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos-Torres tandem could hinge on parties' reunification

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A possible tandem of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) could hinge on reunifying the Covenant Party and the Republican Party, along with independents that were previous GOP members.



Inos



Torres

"We have to address this issue of the [political] party situation... They could go in tandem but definitely you can't have a running mate that runs under a different political party, right? So that has to be addressed," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, a former GOP member, is now
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Local

Task force formed to prepare for 2014 transition deadline

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider recently delegated the CNMI Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, and the Workforce Investment Agency to implement a plan of action for the 2014 transition deadline, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229.

In response to the low transition numbers of U.S. qualified workers who will replace CW workers, Inos stated: "Although I understand the economic variables contributing to the appearance of complacency from businesses in hiring our U.S. citizens or U.S. qualified workers, it is our responsibility to the community to provide sound solutions to arrive at an equilibrium whereby employment opportunity by our U.S. citizens does not become an affirmative action."

The Department of Commerce's October 2011 Job Expo,

which was followed by the Department of Labor Job Fair, both within two months of each other, attracted close to 1,000 job seekers, but based on the data from WIA, Commerce's QED program, and DOL's Employment Services, job placement remains lower than 500.

The new ad hoc team met last Friday and discussed the gaps within the CNMI, ranging from roles of educational institutions, regulatory and enforcement agencies, employers' practices, agencies handling job training, placement, and employment services.

The ad hoc team, now designated as the Target 2014-Transition Task Force, or T2014, with the theme "CNMI Works," consist of Commerce, DOL, Northern Marianas College, WIA, CNMI Scholarship, and SHEFA.

At the start of the meeting,

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar outlined the governor's vision and the need for data and solution, followed immediately by the "CNMI Works" overview presentation by WIA director Edith Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero compiled data from the working group and presented an overview, inventory, and population counts on foreign labor force, foreign workers industry employment, unemployment inventory, scholarship data, and NMC graduate inventory.

"I am happy to be on this team as we have had a good working experience before, and my office, as the job training and placement entity, has had challenges and gaps with respect to follow-throughs from other government agencies," said Deleon Guerrero. "This is an opportunity for us all to close

the gaps, identify the challenges and solutions, and commit to mitigate the action plans."

Although the group met for the first time, the following are agreed tentative action plans that will be reviewed and prioritized by every member until the next meeting later this month:

- Job Fair 2013 on all three islands in November;

- DOL registration outreach for the unemployed and secure data collection;

- Employer survey of staffing needs;

- Sector trainings (using US-CIS \$150 training fees or other sources);

- Engage employment registration/outreach for graduating seniors who are not leaving island;

- Identify graduates/strategies of CNMI and SHEFA to engage employers to hire;

- Legislate temporary tax

credit relief;

- Employer incentives;

- Revisit House Bill 17-234 to require all JVAs to be posted on the CNMI Labor website;

- Increase the 30 percent U.S. worker employment threshold (PL 15-108);

- Increase and improve labor law enforcement (PL 17-1); and

- Federal contractor affirmative action program compliance.

Acting Labor secretary Barbara Sablan confirmed the challenges received by DOL and hopes this team will be able to provide her the resources with respect to employer compliance complacency.

"By sharing resources, we can effectively execute our enforcement powers on all employers while the team and our employment services handle the outreach and coordination, so as to educate employers and employees alike on what they should expect from DOL and why they should unite under

one theme, 'CNMI Works,'" said Sablan.

Inos reiterated that data is key and vital to providing substance to the concerns and sentiments of the community. The Department of Commerce contributed data from the 2010 Census, the 2011 Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study, W2 data from Finance, and other compiled reports to assist with the development of the overview and plan of action presented by WIA.

"The data we have is enough to tell us that we don't have enough data," said Igisomar. "From the overview and action plans presented or seen today, what is important is that we tackle this issue as stated by our governor, by strengthening enforcement, backed by agency support toward placement/training services for job seekers, employees, and employer outreach." (*Office of the Governor*)



CAMPUS RESOURCES

Northern Marianas College's Office of Student Activities and Leadership program manager Queanna Sablan conducts a workshop on "Campus Resources" where she informs students of the resources available on campus. This workshop is part of a series of workshops designed to help students learn ways to enhance their college experience by discussing various topics, such as time management, study habits and finding financial aid.

NMC

A year without long-term Marpi landfill operation contract

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

This month marks one year since the Department of Public Works entered into a short-term equipment rental services deal for the Marpi landfill operations, and procurement protests and appeals continue to delay the award of a long-term landfill operation contract.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan said yesterday the Office of the Public Auditor has tapped a private lawyer, Deborah Fisher, to review DPW and Tangs Corp.'s appeal of OPA's decision on the procurement.

"I think OPA made the right choice of hiring a private law-

yer to review DPW's appeal of OPA's earlier decision for objectivity reason," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

OPA ordered DPW to reissue the request for proposal for the Marpi landfill project with price/cost to the government as an evaluation factor.

But DPW wants to move ahead and award the contract to Tangs Corp., something that SARS or Success International Corp. protested and appealed.

The Division of Procurement and Supply notified parties last week of the decision to tap another counsel to review DPW's

appeal of OPA's earlier decision. "But there was no timeline given so we don't know when

we should expect a decision on our appeal. I hope it would be soon because we can't afford to continue

renting equipment and wait for federal agencies to come after us because of the situation," Sablan added.

DPW said it has included cost as an evaluation factor in the RFP, and that other OPA decisions support DPW's position to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder.

Procurement, in rejecting

SARS' earlier protest, said that Tangs Corp.'s certain personnel have been involved in the construction and operation of the Marpi landfill since its inception in 2002, whereas SARS "had no experience in operating a landfill until it obtained the contract for the temporary equipment rental."

Since September 2012, DPW has been entering into a short-term equipment rental services agreement, first with SARS and later with Tangs Corp., because it has yet to award a long-term Marpi landfill operations contract.

Procurement protests and appeals have been delaying the award of the long-term contract.

'No to cigarette tax hike'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Raising cigarette taxes by 100 percent will not necessarily result in reduced smoking, and the tax hike would further increase the black market or underground distribution of cigarettes, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce told the Legislature.

"Any tax increase would just worsen a bad situation here," Chamber president Alex Sablan said in a letter to House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan).

The largest business organization in the CNMI is commenting on Demapan's House Bill 18-118, which increases the CNMI cigarette tax from \$2 to \$4 a pack.

» Chamber says bill would worsen 'black market' distribution

Demapan said the intent is to generate revenues to fund the CNMI government's share of the Group Health and Life Insurance benefits, estimated at \$7 million to \$9 million, in fiscal year 2014, among other things.

Sablan said the Chamber disagrees with the bill's findings that raising taxes on cigarettes would result in a decrease in cigarette use because they are more expensive.

"If anything, consumers would simply seek nicotine through other methods of delivery. And because the clear choice of delivery of nicotine is cigarettes, there would be less chance of any theoretical decrease in consumption than, say, with chewing tobacco," Sablan told Demapan.

Sablan said the Chamber also believes any increased tax

on cigarettes would be passed straight to consumers by businesses engaged in cigarette distribution.

"We also know that there would follow an increase in black market, or underground, distribution. The Chamber has put great pressure on the AAFES Troop Store in Puerto Rico to stop illicit resale of its tobacco products," Sablan told the bill's author.

AAFES stands for Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

A separate bill, introduced by Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), seeks to criminalize the sale and resale of products

bought from the AAFES.

Sablan said the Chamber has consistently stated it is against in-

creased taxation in the CNMI as a means to lower costs of doing business, and as a way of reducing consumer costs.

The Chamber reiterated that it is less in opposition to what is traditionally referred to as "sin taxes."

"We feel it is best if we make perfectly clear that we are aware, and through our comments to the Legislature on HB 18-118 we reaffirm that understanding with its members, that if taxes are raised on cigarettes, the above will occur in the CNMI," Sablan added.

Other revenue-generating bills still pending at the Legislature seek to help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan, and help the government meet the requirements of a tentatively approved Fund settlement agreement.

5 school buses sit idle for years due to 'legal, technical' issues

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Five federally-funded school buses have been sitting idle for many years now due to legal and technical issues.

In an interview with acting Pupil Transportation manager Jack Diaz during the preparation for the new school year, he said they continue to work with the vendor to fix this longstanding problem.

Before the creation of the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority, the

CNMI Public School System directly received funds from the Federal Transportation Administration to procure school buses and vans for public schools.

Saipan Tribune learned that FTA funds were used to buy these five 66-seater Navistar buses. It was learned that the federal arm's General Services Administration procured the buses from a vendor identified as Midpac Far East Guam. After only a year of use, the buses broke down and have not been in use since then.

"Those five buses were pur-

chased awhile back (before I came) and have some issues. They actually ran for one year and broke down due to manufacturing defects," said Diaz.

Of the five, three are on Saipan, one is on Rota, and one is on Tinian.

When asked how long these buses have been broken, Diaz said: "They've been sitting there for the longest time because of legal and technical issues... maybe five to six years now."

Diaz said that one of the issues is whether the defects were caused by operator error or are

manufacturing defects.

"What they're telling us is that [the defect] is operator-error but how could you have an operator error when all five buses purchased from them have the same problems?" asked Diaz.

Diaz said the vendor brought experts to Tinian and Rota to assess the problem some years ago and he plans to bring the same experts to Saipan to look at the buses.

It was found out during the previous assessment that the spare parts needed to fix the problem are already obsolete,

posing another concern.

"I am thinking if we can bring them back [experts from Midpac Far East Guam] to Saipan and work on one of the buses, we will know exactly what to do with the other buses," said Diaz.

Minor repairs

Besides the five buses with "manufacturing defects," PSS has two other 66-seater buses undergoing minor repairs, Diaz said.

He said that PSS has more than enough number of buses

this school year, with 30 buses and special education vans for three islands. All these buses and vans are considered "new" and not one is more than 10 years old.

Diaz said they also have three standby/backup 66-seater school buses for emergency cases.

When asked if PSS needs more buses at this time, Diaz said: "Pretty soon we are. I am thinking after two years because of our proximity to the ocean."

According to Diaz, the lifespan of a bus in the U.S. mainland is 12 years. On Saipan, he projects that this could be lower than 10 years.

PSS' future need for school buses now depend on COTA, which is the direct authority that handles FTA funds for the CNMI, including for public schools.

TRAGIC CASE OF CUSTOMS OFFICER AT K-9 UNIT

Wife passed away in June, now defendant gets 12 mos. in jail

Former Customs officer Perry M. Iguel was slapped with a 24-month jail term for his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

At a hearing on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona M. Manglona sentenced Iguel to 24 months in prison.

After serving his sentence, Iguel will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Manglona also required the defendant to, among other things, perform 150 hours of community service, participate in a substance abuse program, and pay a \$100 special assessment fee.

The judge waived all fines after determining that the defendant does not have the ability to pay.

Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the remaining two charges.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy recommended 18 months imprisonment—the low end of the sentencing guidelines. Court-appointed counsel Robert T. Torres recommended a one-month prison term.

In his sentencing memorandum, Torres disclosed that as this case was pending, Iguel's wife passed away on June 29 at the age of 32 after a battle with gastrointestinal cancer.

Iguel and his wife learned only about the cancer last January, barely five months after the defendant was arrested and charged. Torres said the wife's death left Iguel behind with their two sons, ages 10 and 6.

"The two children cannot be punished for the sins of their father and left unguided as a result of the loss of their mother," he said.

To bring his sons back from Guam, Iguel had to pawn his wedding ring—"the most treasured item evidencing his life-

long commitment" to his wife, said Torres.

According to the indictment,

Iguel, then a Customs officer, distributed \$420 worth of "ice" on Dec. 13, 2011, and Jan. 10,

2012. The defendant pleaded guilty in October 2012. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

Qualification of lawmaker to give an expert opinion is questioned

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney Colin Thompson is questioning the qualification of former police officer and now Rep. Chris D. Leon Guerrero to provide expert opinions for attorney Ramon K. Quichocho in a racketeering lawsuit.

Thompson is counsel for businesswoman Jung Ja Kim, who has filed a racketeering lawsuit against Quichocho in federal court.

Kim asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday to exclude Leon Guerrero's testimony as an expert witness.

Leon Guerrero, then owner of LG Private Investigation Services, had stated that it is his opinion that Kim was using a series of corporate entities that she in fact controlled to hide assets from her former husband and the Division of Revenue and Tax.

Leon Guerrero had also stated, among other things, that Kim was using other individuals to accomplish the same purposes of concealing corporate entities.

Quichocho's lawyer, Michael Dotts, filed Leon Guerrero's expert report on July 27, 2012.

In Kim's motion to exclude the testimony, Thompson asserted that Leon Guerrero's opinions are "unreliable, lack any logical or methodical basis, and lack facts or identifiable data."

Thompson said that Leon Guerrero offers no methodology to arrive at his opinions nor are his opinions based on specialized knowledge or experience.

Furthermore, the lawyer pointed out, DeLeon Guerrero's opinions are not relevant and that his testimony will not aid the jury.

Thompson said a witness may be qualified as an expert through knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education.

"It is unclear what field of expertise Leon Guerrero claims to be qualified. It appears from his report that he has never qualified as an expert witness in any field," he said.

The lawyer concedes that Leon Guerrero was a police investigator but said his opinion does not offer information about methods of investigation.

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OAG lists 182 possible witnesses for Crisostomo trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has notified the Superior Court that the prosecution intends to call 182 witnesses in the jury trial of Joseph A. Crisostomo, who faces charges in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

Attorney Janet H. King, coun-

sel for Crisostomo, informed the court on Wednesday that she plans to call 95 witnesses for the defense. That same day, the OAG disclosed that it may call at least eight witnesses.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal, however, filed on Friday the government's witness list that contained 181 names. Neal listed as 182 "any and all other persons named in discovery."

Neal also stated that the gov-

ernment expressly reserves the right to amend the witness list to add "any and all persons not presently known who possesses relevant knowledge and whose identity and knowledge becomes known before and during the trial."

Included in the prosecution's witness list are 13 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 56 from the Department of Public Safety, four doctors, several per-

sonnel from other law enforcement agencies, two Romero siblings, several friends and then co-workers of Romero, Crisostomo's former wife, and the widower of a Chinese woman who was murdered on Saipan.

The trial of 40-year-old Crisostomo will start on Oct. 15, 2013. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will preside.

FBI agents found Romero's body at the former La Fiesta

Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days before she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan.

Cultural Heritage Exhibit starts today

The 2013 Cultural Heritage Exhibit starts today and organizers are still accepting artists who want to display and sell their masterpieces at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Arts Council coordinator Darrell Moteisou said slots are still available for artists who want to be part of the exhibit, which is free of charge.

Local artists involved in the visual arts, contemporary arts, carving, and painters are welcome to take part in the event, which is being held in conjunction with September being Cultural Heritage Month.

The Arts Council has been staging the Cultural Heritage Exhibit for about 10 years and this marks the second straight year the Kanoa Resort will be hosting the exhibit. The exhibit will be held at the lobby of the Susupe landmark.

The Cultural Heritage Exhibit is one of the three major exhibits hosted annually by the Arts Council. The other two are the Women's Exhibit every March and the Christmas Exhibit in December.

For more information, visit the Arts Council next to the post office on Capital Hill, call 322-9982 or 83, or email moteisou@gmail.com or darrellm_21@hotmail.com. (*Saipan Tribune*)

POWER

From Page 1

The bill could reach the governor's desk by late Wednesday afternoon if the Legislature passes it, some two weeks before the Oct. 1 start of fiscal year 2014.

"The 50 percent reprogramming authority was the major addition we made; the rest were administrative and technical in nature," House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The House budget version went with the Budget Act's up-to-25 percent budget reprogramming. But the Senate version gave the governor authority to reprogram up to 100 percent of the budget.

However, during conference committee meetings, this reprogramming authority was not added to the list of "differences" between the House and Senate budget versions that needed to be hashed out.

Moreover, the House set aside \$200,000 for La Fiesta's land lease payment, which was also in the governor's budget submission. The Senate scrapped that \$200,000 appropriation.

Just like the reprogramming authority, the La Fiesta lease payment also wasn't originally tackled by the conference committee.

Sablan said from the start, he tried to bring the conferees' attention to the lack of money for

the La Fiesta lease payment.

"It's an obligation by the government and we should be prepared to face the consequences," Sablan said in an interview late yesterday morning.

The consequence is risking default on the land lease payment.

By late yesterday afternoon, the conference committee reached another compromise—to give the governor power to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget to be able to deal with the La Fiesta land lease payment along with other possible shortfalls throughout fiscal year 2014.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately said she's glad that the committee continued to reach a compromise on issues important to both sides.

"In the end, both sides were satisfied as a result of compromise," Taimanao said last night.

The Planning and Budgeting Act gives the governor power to reprogram up to 25 percent of the budget of all operations and activities of the Executive Branch, including all of the critical services that fall under his jurisdiction.

If the governor declares a state of emergency, he can reprogram more than 25 percent.

Inos administration plan

The Inos administration seeks investors interested in revitalizing the former La Fiesta mall.

Under the government's plan, any investor taking on the project would also take over the

annual land lease payment of \$200,000.

But because there is no investor yet, the government still has to budget for the lease payment.

Taimanao said yesterday morning that the Senate only followed the fiscal year 2013 budget that also zeroed out the land lease payment for La Fiesta. At the time, the administration expected an investor to revitalize the former mall but negotiations fell through.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said there are efforts underway to seek investors for the revitalization of La Fiesta.

"If this pulls through in 2014, then the government would not be responsible for the lease payment. However, until such time that development begins in the area, the government will have to find a way to fund this lease," said Demapan, prior to the last-minute compromise reached by the conferees.

Chamber opposition

Another plan to entice investors to revitalize La Fiesta is House minority leader George Camacho's (R-Saipan) House Bill 18-114, providing a temporary 50-percent tax cut for businesses that will use a space at La Fiesta, but the Saipan Chamber of Commerce opposes the bill.

Chamber president Alex Sablan said their organization believes that a "piecemeal tax incentive approach" to La Fiesta's use "will not bring the desired result" offered by the bill.

DEBT

From Page 1

Frances Mafnas, the board's finance committee chair, disclosed that CPA has a "bad debt" of \$415,932—an amount that has been on the agency's books for the longest time.

Following its auditor's recommendation, the CPA management has proposed to write off this amount but some board members are balking at this suggestion.

Mafnas disclosed that of the \$415,932 bad debt uncovered at CPA, the bulk is for the airport, which has \$370,768, while the seaport accounts receivable is \$45,164.

Mafnas recommended that the board first seek out a legal opinion on these aging accounts before finalizing any decision to write off the amount.

Saipan Tribune learned that all bad debts are carried forward from previous fiscal years and keep showing up on the books year after year until the amount is collected or written off.

For Rota board member Barrie Toves, the CPA board cannot just write off bad debts without having a clear and legal authority to do so. He is also concerned about the statute of limitation that the board may still use to possibly recoup the funds.

"If the statute of limitation is not an issue, then we must pursue and try to collect and that's basically the issue here. I asked the management to be on top of this and seek legal opinion whether we can or not pursue it. If it's not financially feasible [to collect], then that's the only time we can think about writing off [these bad debts]," said Toves.

Board member Benigno Sablan wants all paper trail to be presented to the board so they would know how often CPA asked for payment of these outstanding accounts and if there's a possibility that CPA can still take them to court.

Saipan Tribune learned that the bulk of the airport's aging receivable, \$350,000, was incurred in payroll while over \$18,000 are collectibles from airport leases and over \$1,800 are collectibles from former CPA board members for their travel advances.

Among the companies that owe CPA significant amounts is Good Day World Services, which leases the telephone booth at the Saipan airport and owes over \$6,700. A company named Island Aviation Corp., which used to lease space, also owes the agency over \$4,000 while Quality Concession, a

lease on Tinian, owes CPA over \$4,000. Another company that leased space at the Saipan airport and owes CPA \$1,300 is Sook Enterprises Inc.

The accounts of these firms, it was learned, have been inactive since 2002 and 2005.

Saipan Tribune learned that two former CPA board members have unpaid travel advances. A former board chair reportedly owes the agency over \$1,000 while a former Tinian board member incurred over \$700 in travel advances. Another former board member also owes the agency some \$90.

For the seaport side, total bad debts was at \$45,164 composed of the following: outstanding lease payments, wharfage, others, over \$7,000; accounts receivables from former board members, over \$3,000; and payroll, over \$34,000.

SYRIA

From Page 1

tion, the once fiercely debated topic that somehow moved to Washington's back burner.

■■■

Editor's Note: That gives Congress very little time to take up S. 256, which would once again delay the 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage on Sept. 30 this year and in 2015. The bill also seeks to extend the CW and E2-C investor visa program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, and conveys to the CNMI the same 3-mile territorial sea or submerged lands limit as Guam and other U.S. islands. Under current law, those lands are owned by the United States.

■■■

No member of Congress is in a tighter spot than House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. He risks seeing most of his Republican colleagues vote against him on three major issues, just as they did earlier on a hurricane relief bill and the "fiscal cliff" budget showdown.

Boehner supports President Barack Obama's proposal to fire missiles into Syria as punishment for the gassing of hundreds of civilians. GOP rank-and-file opposition, however, is running strong, especially in the House.

TANDEM

From Page 1

the titular head of the Covenant Party, while Torres is a Republican.

Torres said that no final decision has been made on his 2014 political plans. He said his priorities remain the same, including working with the Inos administration on addressing critical CNMI issues and reunifying the Republican Party. The Senate president called on former Republicans, including Inos, to rejoin the GOP.

Inos said the Covenant Party leadership is still deliberating on this.

"It's something that I would have to seek their guidance and hopefully we do something positive for our future," he said.

On the budget front, Boehner says he wants no government shutdown or default on the debt. Those scenarios conceivably could result in a few weeks from partisan impasses over spending and the need to raise the ceiling on how much the government can borrow.

Some conservative Republicans want to shut down the government if that's what it takes to block the "Obamacare" health program. The fiscal year ends Sept. 30, and government agencies will start shutting down if some type of budget bill isn't enacted by then.

Meanwhile, leaders of both parties continue to make irconcilable demands on how to raise the federal debt ceiling this fall. Unless it rises, the government will start defaulting on financial obligations, rattling world markets.

Finally, Boehner has signaled that he wants far-reaching changes to immigration laws. That puts him in sync with many national GOP leaders who say the party must improve its weak standing among Hispanic voters. But it puts him at odds with many House Republicans who adamantly oppose a Senate-passed bill, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants living here illegally.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial left the Republican Party to form the Covenant Party to support his gubernatorial bid. He became governor on his second attempt and was re-elected.

Fitial later rejoined the GOP, causing many Republicans to leave the party. Many Covenant Party members—including Inos—did not follow Fitial to the Republican Party. Some former GOP members later called themselves Independent-Republicans.

Besides Inos, other possible contender for governor in the 2014 elections is former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider.

Hofschneider's camp is wooing Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), among others, to be his running mate. As of yesterday, Yumul said he's not considering the invitation until Hofschneider directly talks to him about it.

Desk audit for ports authority personnel underway

» **Board-approved 5-pct. salary hike found not fully implemented**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A desk audit on all personnel of the Commonwealth Ports Authority is underway, to determine if everyone is getting the proper salary scale due them based on their job descriptions.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama disclosed that a total of 192 employees work in three airports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The purpose of the desk audit is to review our existing filled positions to determine its proper allocation level within the position classification and pay system classification plan," she said. The cost to do this has not been determined yet.

According to Lizama, some employees perform multiple duties, which their pay scale or salary doesn't match.

The CPA board approved last year a 5 percent across-the-board salary increase for ports employees, including top officials like former executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and comptroller Derek Sasamoto.

At a recent board meeting, the board found out that this directive has not been fully implemented, with some employees still not accorded the salary adjustment.

"By knowing that not everybody receives the 5-percent increase, I think it's the mandate [of the new executive director] to make sure that everybody gets the increase," said board member Benigno Sablan.

Upon assuming the top position of the agency last month,

Lizama immediately recommended the conduct of the desk audit. The board approved it.

Lizama admitted that there are still employees who haven't been accorded the salary hike as mandated by the board. She then vowed to fully implement the board directive in consultation with comptroller Skye Aldan who will certify if funds are available to do it at this time.

Based on the CPA policy

and regulations, annual increments and merit-based bonuses are allowed.

Lizama requested that the annual increments be put on hold for now, but to continue providing the merit increase based on employee performance. She, however, pointed out that all these remain dependent on the new budget to be formulated for fiscal year 2014.

Saipan Tribune learned that some employees who did not

get the 5-percent pay hike are mostly personnel whose pay levels have already reached Step 12 and cannot be moved up, resulting in their salary being frozen.

This was affirmed by board finance committee chair Frances Mafnas who explained that a Custodial 1 position in the Step 12 pay level cannot receive the 5-percent pay hike anymore because doing so will exceed the maximum pay scale

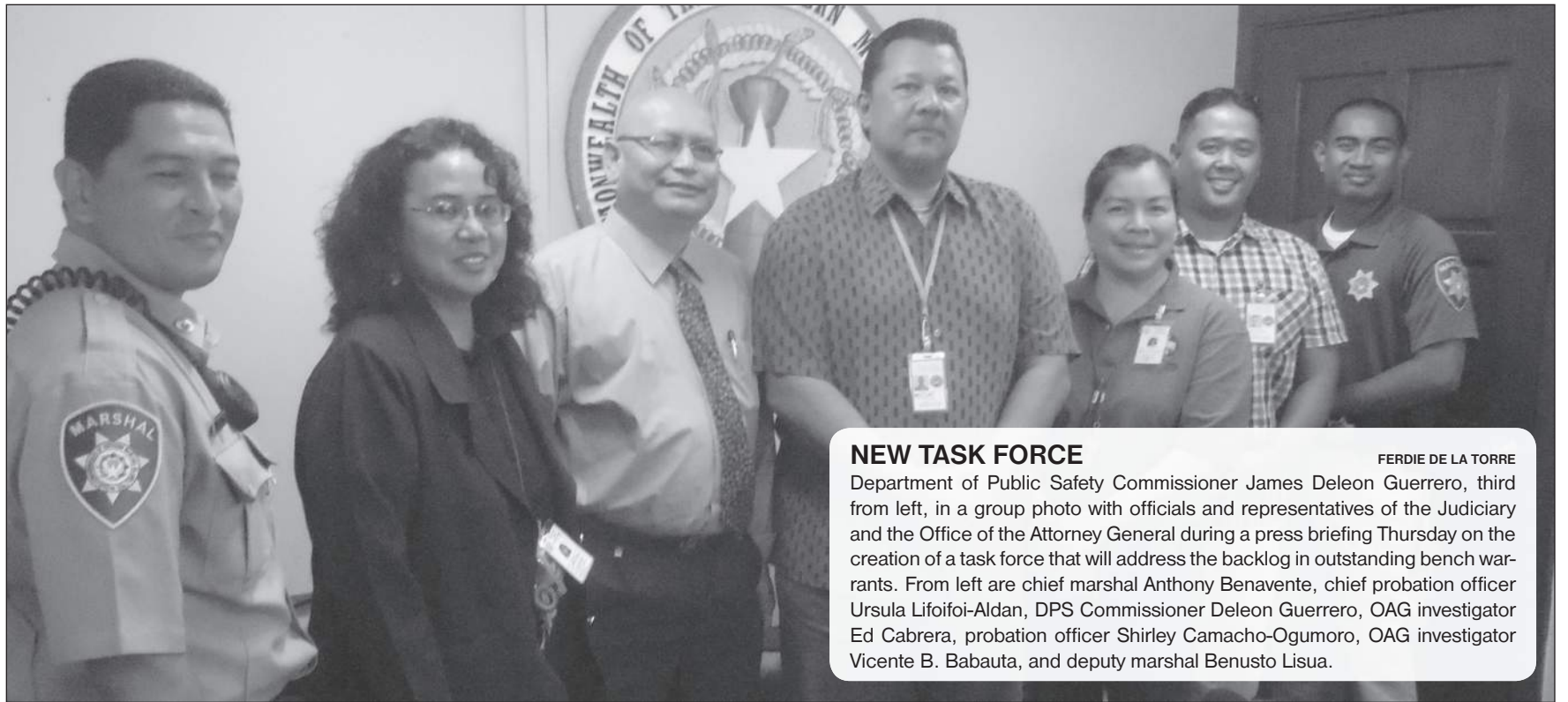
under CPA policy.

"You cannot move them up because if you do, it would be against our policy," said Mafnas, adding that the only way they can be provided the salary hike is through "bonus or merit increase" as approved by the board. These employees, she said, are entitled to it if their salary is frozen for two years.

Meantime, Sablan pointed out that what the board ap-

proved for salary increases last year was not a "bonus" but an adjustment for CPA employees who haven't had salary increases since 2006.

For board member Barrie Toves, this salary increase should not apply to employees who have had any changes in their personnel actions two years prior to the effective date, or those who have been promoted resulting in the adjustment of their wages.



NEW TASK FORCE

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, third from left, in a group photo with officials and representatives of the Judiciary and the Office of the Attorney General during a press briefing Thursday on the creation of a task force that will address the backlog in outstanding bench warrants. From left are chief marshal Anthony Benavente, chief probation officer Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan, DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, OAG investigator Ed Cabrera, probation officer Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, OAG investigator Vicente B. Babauta, and deputy marshal Benusto Lisua.

Barcinas denies making sexual advances on Kabir

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas admits he was the then-immediate supervisor of Homayan Kabir at Dandan Elementary School but denied making any sexual advances on the security guard.

Barcinas, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay,

filed Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI his responses to Kabir's sexual harassment lawsuit against him.

Lochabay said that Barcinas admitted that Kabir's company, Eagle Security Services, provided security services at Dandan Elementary School when he was still its principal.

Lochabay denied that Barcinas made any sexual ad-

vances and also denied there was a hostile and abusive working environment for Kabir at the time.

The government lawyer denied any retaliation, harassment on the job, onerous or demeaning work assignments, unpaid work, and non-renewal of contract for refusal of nonexistent sexual advances.

Lochabay also denied that Bar-

cinas was an employer of Kabir.

Lochabay said that Kabir's complaint was filed in November 2007 and that the statute of limitations for assault, battery, and the relevant civil rights actions is two years.

"Many of the alleged actions complained of by plaintiff would have occurred more than two years prior to the filing of the complaint," he said.

Kabir sued Barcinas and the Public School System for un-

lawful employment practices, violation of civil rights, and assault and battery.

Kabir alleged that Barcinas, who was then principal at Dandan Elementary School during his employment, sexually harassed him by making repeated advances on him.

Kabir says he was employed as a security guard at Dandan Elementary School from April to October 2005 and again from July to October 2006.

Saipan for Christ

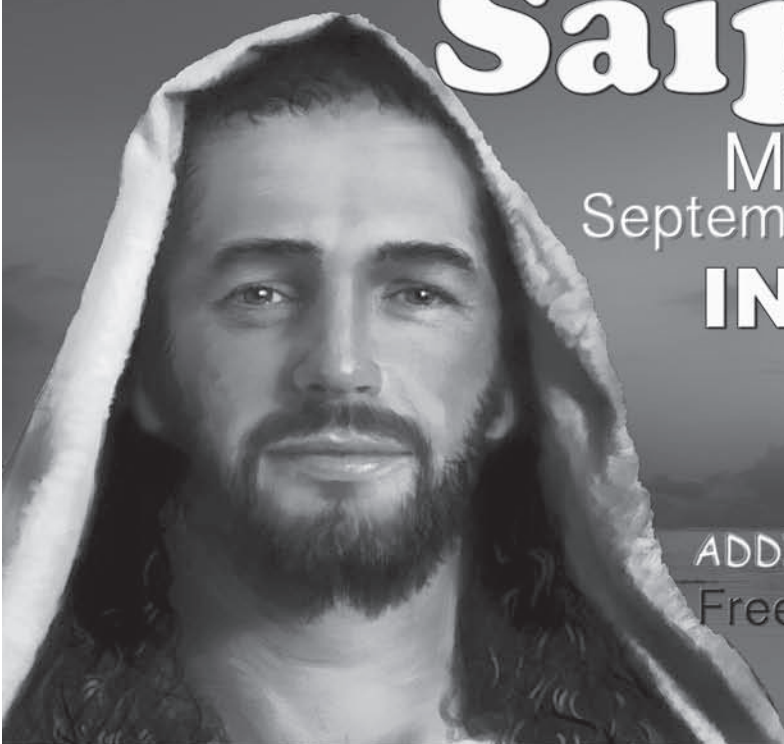
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe
September 7-14, 2013 from 7:00-8:30pm (every night)

**INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER
& EVANGELIST
ADLY CAMPOS from USA**

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

Free Gifts, Opportunities for Questions & Children's Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION -Please call 285-0782 or 285-1844



Red Cross NMI Chapter's Club 200 set for Oct. 19

Next month's Club 200, the American Red Cross NMI Chapter's signature fundraising event, will have the theme "Salute to Service."

Executive director John Hirsh said this year's theme is a sort of nod to military personnel but is also a tribute to everyone in the community who are helping other people.

"So anyone can dress up as firefighter, policeman, or doctor. Anybody who is involved in public service," he said.

The 2013 Club 200 is set for Oct. 19 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Doors open at 6am.

Like in previous years, the entrance fee for the fundraiser is \$100 and gives ticket-holders a chance to win the Club 200 grand prize worth \$15,000.

He said the local chapter of the American Red Cross hopes to sell 1,200 of the 1,300 tickets it has printed.

Last year, ARC raised in ex-

cess of \$100,000 during its Club 200 event, which had a "Wild West" theme.

While 2012's fundraising haul was impressive, Hirsh said it was still far off from the record-setting \$170,000 they raised during the heyday of the CNMI's economic boom.

"It's been more of a struggle. When times were great it was easier for people to open their wallets and purse and give more. But when times got harder people become more particular in where they're going to give to," said Hirsh.

Despite the economic doldrums the islands' have experienced the past several years, Hirsh is still upbeat the local community will donate money for a worthy cause.

"Through the 35 years we've been in the CNMI we've developed a lot of trust and respect. They know if they're going to give \$200 or \$100 it's going to a good cause. This year a donor is

giving \$15,000 and they know they're giving it to an organization that has accountability and transparency. Our financial information and our bookkeeping is open to everybody."

Also, Hirsh said, the NMI Chapter has shown throughout the years that it is always at the beck and call of the community when it needs it most, which means during disasters.

"We've supported our community here by providing well over \$1 million in financial and in-kind assistance for people affected by typhoons, fire, and floods. We're like the leading humanitarian organization providing support to victims of natural disasters as well as working with a lot of businesses to get a strong lifeguard organization going and teaching health and safety classes like first aid."

Just a couple of weeks ago, the NMI Chapter provided almost \$1,000 in assistance to a family whose home in Dandan

was flooded. The money was used to lodge the family in a hotel and provide them with clean linens, clothes, and food.

The NMI Chapter's assistance also extends outside the CNMI as volunteers from the local group have assisted in rescue and recovery efforts during Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Katrina, the 2011 tsunami in Japan, and the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

Club 200 is one of two signature events of NMI Chapter during the year. The other one is the American Red Cross Walkathon in March. People who want to donate to the local chapter of the American Red Cross can also give \$1 or a quarter to the many ARC white boxes located inside many establishments around the islands.

For more information on the NMI ARC or to buy tickets, call their office at 234-3459. *(Mark Rabago)*

MTEC gears up for new school year



MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council conducts students presentations each year to educate young people on the Northern Mariana Islands tourism industry and encourage the "Hafa Adai & Tirow Way" of island hospitality. This year, MTEC will also focus on career opportunities in the industry.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council, MTEC, is gearing up for another year of student presentations at public and private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota about the Northern Mariana Islands' primary industry, tourism.

For the fourth consecutive year, MTEC will visit elementary, junior and senior high schools to keep students educated and engaged in the tourism industry. This year, MTEC will be joined by employees in the industry to share their experiences with the students about careers in tourism.

"Each year we present, we've seen a steady growth in students' understanding about the industry, how it benefits them, and how they can help support it," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "At this stage, we want to fan the flames and get them thinking of working in the industry after graduation or higher education. These young people are our future servers, housekeepers, chefs, front desk clerks, engineers, and ex-

ecutives. We want to let them know what opportunities they can take advantage of when they enter the workforce."

To further engage students and the general public, this month MTEC launched its Facebook page and invites members of the community to "like" Marianas Tourism Education Council.

In other news from the council, the 4th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic on Aug. 31, 2013, will donate a portion of its proceeds to MTEC again this year. Also, the annual MTEC/MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Students Enthusiastically) Tourism Summit is slated for Oct. 30, 2013.

Schools interested in availing of the MY WAVE Club start-up seed fund, financial support through MTEC-sanctioned events, or the Advisor Incentive Program may contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 663-3321 for more information. *(MTEC)*



LUNCHEON MEETING

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman is pictured at a recent luncheon meeting in San Francisco between Judge Carlos Bea of the U.S. 9th Circuit, left, and Chief Judge of the U.S. 9th Circuit of Appeals Alex Kozinski, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp • Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Friday, September 13, 2013, at 9:30 A.M. at the CRM Office located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

- TASI HOMES DEVELOPMENT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-031
- Permit Application Summary
 - Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - Permit Application Status

III. OTHER MATTERS

Adoption of the proposed CRM Rules & Regulations

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ ANA C. AGULTO
Acting Administrator

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,	:	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	:	NO. 07-0021
-v-	:	
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA,	:	
Defendant.	:	

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Rosita Roque Macalinao
PMB 188 P.O. BOX 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 322-7461 /
888-7427

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter	:	FCD GU
Of The Petition	:	CIVIL
To Appoint General	:	ACTION
Guardianship For:	:	NO.
J. A. M. G.	:	13-0270
(D.O.B. 9/22/2001)	:	
and E. E. M. M.	:	NOTICE
(D.O.B. 12/4/2006)	:	OF
Minor Children,	:	HEARING

By:

Rosita Roque
Macalinao
Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 26, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 29th day of August, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Construction water outage on Thursday

Residents of Kannat Tabla, As Terlaje, Airport Road, Fina Sis, and As Perdido will experience a nine-hour water outage on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, from 8am to 5pm, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. release yesterday.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC operations crew to verify mainline connections in the affected areas. This project is part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension Project and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The water outage will inter-

mittently affect residents living on Tun Duki Road, Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi Road, Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road, Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road, and Airport Road.

CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any complaints about having no water or low pressure water after this investigation.

Direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. *(CUC)*



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to our big boy, Juan George M. Pua II, who is celebrating his birthday today, Sept. 10. We hope you enjoy your special day and many more birthdays and blessings to come! With lots of love, hugs, and kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Elphi, Hayashi and the Celis-Pua family.

CUC justifies to businesses needed utility rate hikes

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher and CUC consultant economists.com's Dan V. Jackson took turns explaining to Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and guests the need to increase water, sewer and electric base rates by Oct. 1, to help stem CUC's annual loss of \$6 million to \$10 million, prevent increased service interruptions, and prevent the risk of bankruptcy and insolvency.

Fletcher and Jackson said the rate increase is essential to help meet CUC's goal of becoming a fully modern, self-sustaining utility.

"Unfortunately, improvements to quality come with a price tag, and that is reflected in this rate application. This is an investment in the future of your community and the CNMI in general," they added.

Fletcher and Jackson were among the guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Com-

merce's monthly membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Wednesday last week.

In their presentations, they cited six goals and objectives for the rate application with the Public Utilities Commission.

These include eliminating operating losses.

Since 2006, CUC has lost \$74 million in operating costs. In fiscal year 2012 alone, CUC was dealt with a \$6.24 million loss. CUC loses money on every drop of water every kilowatt hour of electric service it sells.

As a non-profit entity, CUC only seeks to cover the cost it incurs in providing service.

CUC also seeks to meet all stipulated order requirements, and offset declining customer and volume base.

The agency also seeks to fund general operating and capital cost increases, assist with typhoon preparedness, and follow CNMI law.

CUC's system is also old and is in bad shape. This means it has high risk of catastrophic failure.

Costs—such as fuel—are continuing to increase for many reasons that are beyond CUC's control.

Despite all these, CUC has

accomplished a lot in the last four years, Fletcher and Jackson said.

For one, CUC has eliminated the 2008-2009 rolling

blackouts, reduced line losses, reduced leakages, and eliminated routine sewer spills or overflows.

Up to 95 percent of water us-

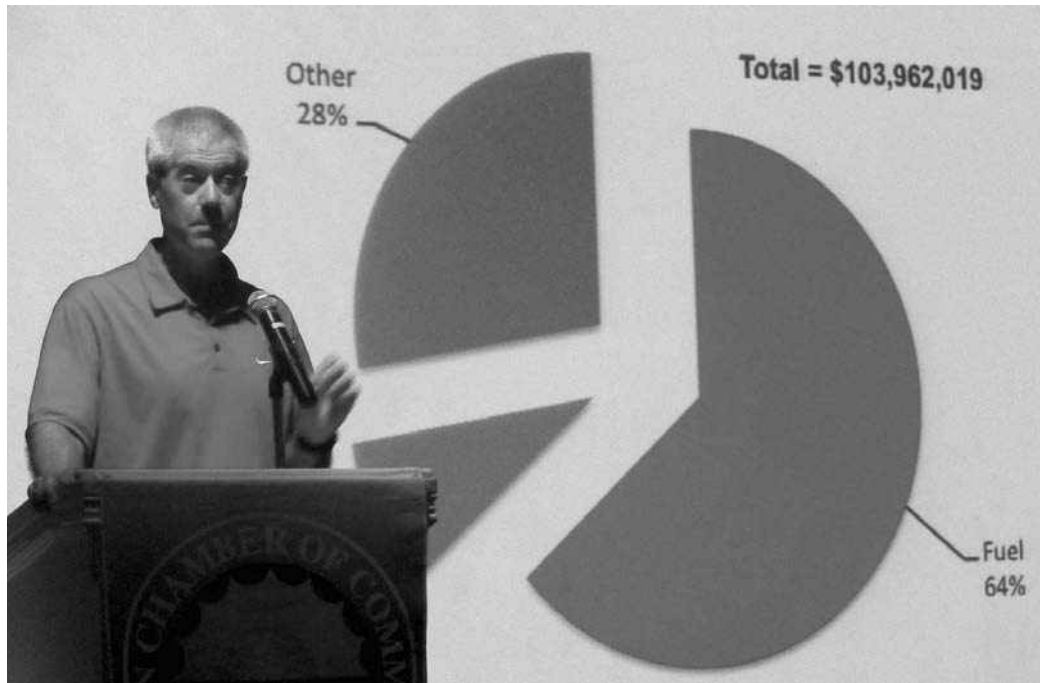
ers have 24-hour service, and 99 percent of customers are now fully metered, CUC said.

The agency has also funded major overhauls of plant and system and increased reliability of assets. These were also aided by federal grants.

"Major efforts were undertaken to improve customer services. All of this while struggling to buy fuel each week," CUC said.

In July, CUC asked PUC for permission to increase utility rates by Oct. 1. It also asked PUC to give CUC's lowest income customers significant additional credit to save them money on their bills and to limit the impact of the proposed rate hike.

Fletcher and Jackson said on Wednesday that if PUC approves the requested rate application, CUC customers would get improved quality, safety and reliability of service, a financially solvent utility, more convenience and ease in service provision, and less risk of catastrophic failure of service.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Dan V. Jackson, managing director and chief executive of economists.com, which is a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. consultant, presents to Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and guests on Wednesday CUC's proposed rate increases, the agency's financial standings, accomplishments and objectives.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice of NRCS public meeting

A USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee Meeting will be held for the Pacific Islands Area on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, from 9am to 11am, at the following video teleconference site: USDA NRCS West Area Office, 770 East Sunset Blvd., Suite 260, Barrigada, GU 96913. Contact the Saipan Field Office at (670) 233-3415 for more information. **(PR)**

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 12, from 2pm to 9pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. **(PR)**

There's still time to register for NMC's fall 2013 semester

There's still time to register for fall 2013 classes that begin Sept. 16-21 at the Northern Marianas College. Registration is open to both ongoing and new students until the last day on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

The latest NMC fall 2013 class schedule, important dates, registration procedures, and more may be viewed online on the NMC fall 2013 Registration Information page at www.marianas.edu.

New students may also begin registering for courses after submitting a completed admission application form and their English and math placement test re-

IMPORTANT DATES

For classes that begin Sept. 16, 2013:

- Sept. 10-12: Registration for classes that begin Sept. 16, 9am – 4pm
- Sept. 10-12: English and math placement test, 9am and 1pm, Testing Center (Building I)
- Sept. 12: Last day to submit admission application & placement test results (for students who have not applied)
- Sept. 16-21: First week of instruction
- 23-25: Add/drop course(s) days for 100-percent refund

sults by Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, to the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N. For more information about placement tests, contact the Testing Center at 237-6774 or email daniel.kin-

tol@marianas.edu.

After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisers, who will assist students complete registration forms and create

class schedules.

For more information about changes to the course schedule, contact the Office of the Dean of Academic Programs & Services at 237-6706, or email APS administrative manager Shirley Blas at shirley.blas@marianas.edu.

For more information about admissions and registration, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N, call 234-5498 Ext. 6778/6769 or email admissions coordinator Lisa Rafael at lisa.rafael@marianas.edu, or log on to www.marianas.edu. **(NMC)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-164**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT SURVEY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY OF REGULATED FACILITIES HANDLING AND STORING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 27, 2013** AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAIN CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO raymasga@den.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@den.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-167**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT ASTM PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT FOR SOIL AND GROUNDWATER OF A CONTAMINATED BROWNFIELDS SITE ON SAIPAN FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 27, 2013** AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAIN CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO raymasga@den.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 AT 1:00 P.M.** IN THE DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@den.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPW-165**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SIX (6) BUSHCUTTERS, TWO (2) CHAINSAWS AND ONE (1) PRESSURE WASHER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-JUDICIARY-161**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY BRANCH- GUMA HUSTISIA/IIMWAL AWEWE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 AT 10:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MR. GERALD WEAVER, BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT AT (670) 236-9800 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSER.

/S/ CHIEF JUSTICE ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Comment Period For The Change of Use of the Tinian Youth Center Swimming Pool previously funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in conjunction with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (Tinian), announces the public notice for the change of use of the Tinian Youth Center Swimming Pool which was previously funded with Program Year 1999 CDBG funds and completed in Program Year 2002. The Office of the Mayor of Tinian has determined that it is the Municipality's best interest to fill the pool for safety and environmental reasons, and to install playground or fitness equipment for community use. The newly installed playground or fitness equipment will be funded by the Tinian Municipality and will be maintained by the Office of the Mayor of Tinian, in coordination with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (Tinian). The change of use will benefit the entire community of Tinian and meets the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Low-Mod Area (LMA) Benefit National Objective.

The estimated completion date for the installation of the playground and fitness equipment will be on August 2014.

Comments on this change of use may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is October 9, 2013, no later than 4:30 p.m.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office: Tel. (670) 532-9410 • Fax. (670) 532-9441
Tinian Field Office: Tel. (671) 433-9213 • Fax. (670) 433-3690

Tinian celebrates Labor Day



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz reads his Labor Day message at the start of the Labor Day celebration on Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

Tinian's Labor Day celebration was held on Friday, Aug. 30, 2013, at the Fiesta Grounds, Kammer Beach. It was a great turnout, attended by Gov. Eloy Inos, Attorney General Joey San Nicolas, and Sen. Frank Cruz.

It was a day of fun and games. All government departments joined in the celebration as well as the Public School System, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other autonomous agencies. Many employees received recognition for their hard work throughout the year as presented by each department. Toward the late afternoon, the games preceded with coconut husking, tug of war, and chacha dance contest. *(Office of the Mayor)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz is joined by PSS Special Education director Suzanne Lizama, center, and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, Ed. D., at the Tinian Labor Day celebration on Friday, Aug. 30, 2013, at Kammer Beach.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz and Sen. Frank Cruz participate in the coconut husking competition, representing the Tinian Mayor's Office.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz and Gov. Eloy Inos proceed to the Fiesta Grounds on Kammer Beach to take part in the Tinian Labor Day celebration on Friday, Aug. 30, 2013.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 10, 2005

\$206M budget endorsed

The House of Representatives made its final approval of \$206.5 million as the government's only available resources for Fiscal Year 2006. In a session yesterday morning, the House approved House Concurrent Resolution 14-3, which sets at \$217.4 million the total identified budgetary resources for the next fiscal year. Of this amount, \$11.2 million will be taken out for the following obligations: Public School System bond repayment, \$2 million; capital improvement project \$60 million bond repayment, \$5.2 million; Marianas Public Land Trust remittance to Northern Marianas Housing Corp. (Public Law 12-27), \$1.3 million; and Land Compensation bond repayment, \$2.7 million.

CNMI water projects need \$29.3M more

The CNMI Water Task Force needs about \$29.3 million more to fund its water infrastructure development projects in the Commonwealth. Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, head of the task force, reported that the group's total estimated project cost was \$49.6 million. Of this, \$20.3 million has been secured through allocation of Covenant funding through fiscal year 2006 and special appropriations. Benavente added that future Covenant funds would have to be committed to the task force unless the CNMI received special appropriations, such as that to be provided by a pending federal water bill. The Water Resource Development Act of 2005 would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million for CNMI water projects, according to the lieutenant governor.

September 10, 2006

DCP law 'very good'

A Guam-based retirement consulting firm considers the CNMI's newly enacted defined contribution law as "perfect" and "clear" but its prescribed contribution rate of 14 percent—10 percent employee's share and the government's 4 percent share—is at least 2 percent less than the recommended retirement rate. "I love your plan! It's perfect. It's crisp. It's clear," said David J. John, president of ASC Trust Corp. during a presentation at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday night. ASC Trust Corp. currently manages over \$150 million assets, representing over 50,000 plan participants in 1,000 plans.

CDA prioritizes bad debts collection

The Commonwealth Development Authority has put on top agenda the collection of delinquent loans, pegged at \$86.5 million as of the last fiscal year. CDA, in an analysis of its own financial performance for fiscal year 2005, said the agency's loan department is pursuing bad debts by taking "seriously delinquent" borrowers to court and foreclosing on properties. At the same time, the agency tries to accommodate clients based on their individual capacity to pay. "Delinquency will continue to plague CDA's financial condition, but if we work closely with our clients, we will decrease the delinquency ratio, and monitor a consistent collection activity and structure to meet the clients' cash flow capability. But we must maintain constant communication with them," CDA said.

September 10, 2007

Suit questioning NMI policy versus IRs with absentee spouses dismissed

The federal court has dismissed without finality a lawsuit that questioned the CNMI government's policy to go after people who have Immediate Relative status, but whose sponsoring spouses have departed the Commonwealth. U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson ruled that he agrees with defendants Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory and Immigration director Melvin Grey that, at this time, the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction in Mohammed Shajahan Ali's lawsuit "because there is no justiciable case or controversy before it."

Copies of Chamorro, Carolinian orthographies now available

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission is informing the general public that printed copies of Chamorro and Carolinian orthographies are available for reference through the collaborative effort of the JKPL, Children of our Homeland Center Program. This program is funded by Ana Grant, under the direction of Dr. Liz Rechebei. Copies are available at JKPL, Children of our Homeland Center and Office of the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission.

Over 200 attend PIC Palooza



MARK RABAGO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan SEA (Sports, Events, and Activities) executive Glenn Policare hosts the "Wheel of Fortune" segment of last Saturday's 2013 Palooza.

The Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club was jam-packed with over 200 people for last Saturday's 2013 Palooza.

This year's theme was "PIC Palooza—The Game Show" and PIC Saipan executive Glenn Policare tried his best Bob Barker and Pat Sajak impersonations while emceeding beloved TV game shows like "The Price is Right" and "Wheel of Fortune" during the CNMI's party of parties.

It was not all fun and games, though, as the American Red Cross NMI Chapter was chosen as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the event this year.

In the "Wheel of Fortune" segment, American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, Doreen Tesero, and Tyce Mister made it to the finals after winning their respective preliminary games.

Hirsh successfully guessed "NMI American Red Cross," while Tesero answered the clue for "PIC Palooza" correctly. Mister, meanwhile, got into the

finals after correctly guessing "Forbidden Islands."

In the finals, Mister ran off with a PIC Saipan room stay after guessing "Vicky Benevente" on the clue for "famous persons."

In the "Price is Right" segment, Marianas Eye Institute's Russ Quinn won in his "low or high" game and took home a room stay courtesy of the San Antonio hotel.

Also victorious was Ray Camacho who made the right moves in "numbers scramble" and was \$200 richer in his wallet.

In the "Hunger Games" Winnie Lee got the better of PIC Saipan's "Big" Jim Taman in a fight-to-the-finish match that had the two protagonists armed with red markers while one of their wrists were tied together. The former won after Taman had more red mark "slashes" on his shirt.

In "card sharks," Jim of Gualo Rai triumphed and earned \$40 for all his troubles.

PIC Saipan SEA operations

manager Dennis Tababa said it was a very successful event. Aside from the more than 200 guests, they also sold over 400 raffle tickets and the party ended at past 12am.

Hirsh thanked PIC Saipan and the over 200 people who took part in the event Saturday night.

"They had a great turnout. It's always difficult to help raise money in the community now there are so many worthwhile charitable organizations. We really feel grateful that people in our community are still supporting the American Red Cross. They know the great work we're doing."

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter provides services and programs to the people of Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

Past beneficiaries of the PIC Palooza include the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Guma Esperanza Women's Shelter, PAWS, Beautify CNMI, and Karidat. *(Mark Rabago)*

DEQ brigade to take part in 28th ICC

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will deviate from its regular first Saturday of the monthly beach cleanup in order to join the Coastal Resource Management's celebration of the 28th Annual International Coastal Cleanup, which is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 21, on Saipan. Rota will be participating on Sept. 20 and Tinian will be hosting theirs on Sept. 18.

DEQ encourages all regu-

lar volunteer individuals or groups to sign up and take part in this very good deed. If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island by participating in the ICC, contact a CRM ICC coordinator to sign up.

■ Saipan coordinator: Nicole Schafer, 664-8312

■ Rota coordinator: Bill Pendergrass, 532-0466

■ Tinian coordinator: Edwin Hofschneider, 433-0494

Last month's Aquarius Beach

Cleanup was successful with 27 volunteers from the Northern Marianas College, WSR Elementary School, Kagman High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Saipan Southern High School, Zoning Board, radio station KKMP, and others participating. About 300 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. *(DEQ)*

Tinian DynastySM Hotel & Casino

IS LOOKING FOR

Our Saipan Office

Airport Representative (10)

- Valid CNMI driver's license required, knowledge in Japanese/Chinese/Korean language is preferred

Guest Service Representative (10)

- Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, previous experience in hospitality industry preferred

Our Tinian Business Site

- **Accounting Clerk (2)** - Previous experience in accounting preferred

- **Computer Technician (MIS) (1)** - Minimum 2 years experience.
- Formal training/education is strongly preferred

- **Bar Attendant (4)** - Minimum two years experience

- **Storekeeper (2)** - Must be able to lift and carry weight up to 50lbs

- **Waitstaff (Waiter/Waitress) (20)**

- **Lifeguard (2)** - Lifeguard Certification is required

- **Cooks (Cantonese Cuisine (3), Korean Cuisine (3), Western Cuisine (3))**
Minimum 2 years culinary experience, formal training /education in culinary arts is strongly preferred

- **Housekeeping Attendant (20)**

- **Engineering Staffs**
A/C Technician (2), Plumber (2), Electrician (2), Mechanic(2), Carpenter (2)
Minimum 2 years experience, formal training/education is strongly preferred

- **Cage Teller (7)**
Must have strong mathematical and money handling skills, minimum 2 years experience as Bank Teller or Cashier type occupation is preferred

- **Surveillance Operator (2)**
Minimum 1 year experience as Surveillance or CCTV operator

- **Security Officer (10)**
Must pass Physical Fitness Test

- **Guest Relation Officer (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, must have excellent people skills.

- **VIP Host (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, knowledge of casino games, minimum 2 years experience in Casino industry

- **Casino Dealer (60)***
1 year experience as Casino Dealer

* Interested applicants without experience may qualify for the Casino Dealer Training Program. Minimum of 10 qualified applicants.

Minimum qualification requirements for all positions listed

At least 18 years of age. High school graduate or equivalent.
Authorized to work in the US. Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.
Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.

Employment Application Forms are available at

2/F Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

or request through e-mail - tdh.hrd@pticom.com / Fax - (670) 328-1106

For Saipan Applicants - e-mail or fax to request and submit Application Form.
Completed application form and all necessary requirements must be submitted on or before **September 11, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.**
Incomplete application will not be accepted

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Roll over Beethoven...and tell Tchaikovsky the news

"Truth be told, we don't love him because of that, but he was a great musician and we all love his music. So what?"—Vladimir Putin

Oh my, Russia is going to have its hands full next year trying to avoid embarrassment when the world comes to Sochi for the Winter Olympics. Latest evidence: Vladimir Putin's Seinfeldian "not that there's anything wrong with that" moment last week in an interview with the Associated Press and Russian television.

Putin assured the interviewers that his people adore their renowned 19th-century Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky...even if Tchaikovsky was gay.

You can expect a lot of that during the Olympics in February. Almost from the moment that Putin in July signed the vague new law banning "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" directed at minors, Russia has been on the defensive.

Gay activists called for a boycott of Russian vodka and other goods. Lady Gaga rallied her fans on Twitter to protest the Russian laws. President Barack Obama blasted Russia during an appearance on Jay Leno. British leaders say they will press Russia during the G20 summit on whether athletes will be at risk of prosecution.

Two of Russia's top female athletes exchanged a kiss on the winners' podium after a relay event in Moscow. Rumors exploded that the women were protesting their country's new law. The kiss was just a kiss, the women insisted—an expression of affection between friends and competitors.

Swedish athlete Emma Green Tregaro painted her nails with rainbow colors at the same competition in Moscow. She was told to repaint her nails red, and she did—but not before she snapped a picture of her rainbow nails and shared it with fans on social media.

And now Putin has had to assure the world that Olympic athletes won't face arrest under the laws ... and that Tchaikovsky was A-OK.

Calls for a boycott of the Sochi Olympics have subsided, and that's good. A boycott would deny an opportunity to some of the world's best athletes. And it would cast a shadow over what promises to be a fascinating stage.

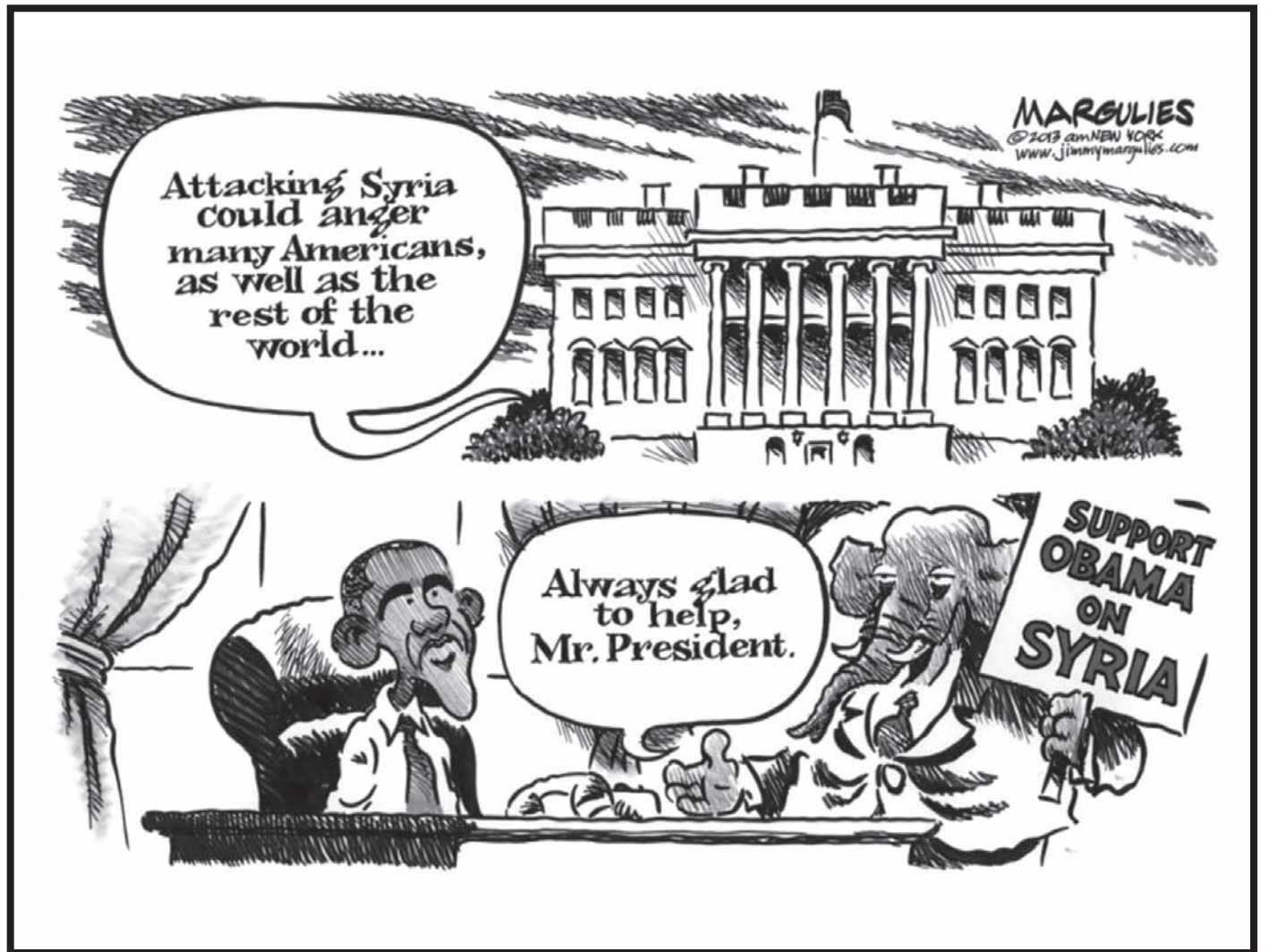
In the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, the great track and field star Jesse Owens won four gold medals...and profoundly embarrassed Adolf Hitler, who wanted the Olympic Games to showcase Nazi Germany and his belief in Aryan supremacy.

Gay and straight athletes will compete in Sochi. Some will win medals. We don't know if they'll use the occasion of an Olympic ceremony to protest the Russian law. We do feel confident the athletes will be safe: Russia has scrambled to assure the world that Olympic athletes won't be prosecuted under the new law.

Some athletes may paint their toenails in rainbow colors. Some may wave rainbow flags. Who knows, some may hum the *1812 Overture*.

Some may, like Jesse Owens, just win gold. Poor Vladimir.

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A vision for the future: Interisland ferry connections

There has been some discussion of late regarding a ferry service between Saipan and Guam. Eight years ago on May 28, 2005, I proposed the following in this very newspaper and at that time I quoted an article in a Honolulu newspaper headlined "Hawaii to Link Islands by Ferry System."

The Hawaiian ferry, constructed in a U.S. shipyard by Austal in Mobile, Alabama, was a \$180-million project with the financing partially guaranteed by the U.S. government.

The financing of the vessel was a result of a federal law first mentioned in this column some years prior to 2005 as a possible project that no one chose to do anything about at the time to encourage the concept among potential private investors. The CNMI government didn't pick up on it, nor did Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in Washington, or Guam for that matter and I never understood why since all the above entities profess to be interested in the economic development of the islands.

Find out why there was a lack of interest and no action and you will be a long way toward understanding much of the reason for the economic malaise sweeping over the Northern Marianas.

At the end of the Cold War, Title XI - National Shipbuilding Initiative, U.S. Public Law 103-160 - Subtitle D 1993 was passed with the objective of assisting in retaining the United States' shipbuilding capability, along with the necessary skills for national defense efforts. This federal program provides for government guarantees to enable ship owners to borrow private sector funds on terms that may not otherwise be available, namely the program guarantees up to 87.5 percent of a loan at fixed rates with a long-term maturity. In my discussions with the federal administrators of the program I learned the federal guaranty could be available to any financial institution regardless of nationality. At the time it was my judgment the program should have been evaluated for possible use in the construction and private operation of an automobile ferry service between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

Rota and Tinian have suffered for many years as a result of lack of development. Considering that the ocean is the Marianas highway, a great stimulus to economic growth of each might possibly be an automobile ferry route. Such a vessel should also be designed to carry freight and containers and should be equipped with sleeping cabins and a restaurant. The vessel would serve to make the four inhabited Mariana Islands more cohesive and contribute to a tighter sense of community—something that is needed. The approximate open sea distances port to port between these islands are (from south to north) Guam – Rota, 47 nautical miles; Rota – Tinian, 63nm; Tinian – Saipan, 10nm.

Aside from the traffic generated by residents within the islands, such a vessel might even permit a tourist on Saipan or Guam to rent a vehicle, tour the island, and drive to the ferry and board. After a pleasant overnight ocean cruise, dinner, and a comfortable cabin, the next morning the visitor could disembark at Guam and tour that island. Afterward turning the vehicle in at Guam and flying home.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.



Another tourist flies to any of the three other islands for a tour. A four- or five-day trip would permit a vehicle tour of all four islands. At the time of my initial concept I recommended that this potential project be evaluated to determine the project's feasibility.

The guaranty program was available to any financial institution regardless of nationality and one did not have to be a U.S. citizen in order to own and operate a vessel constructed under the loan program. Lets hope this is still the case.

As mentioned above, the legislation was passed to keep American shipyards open and to relieve unemployment and underemployment in those domestic areas of the United States where shipbuilding is an important industry. Should it be determined from a feasibility study that a ferry operation could be justified on the Saipan - Guam route, then the vessel would have to be constructed in an American shipyard in order to qualify for the guaranty. Title 23, Section 129 of the U.S. Code also provides for the use of federal-aid highway funds in the construction of ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities. The Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration both provide financial subsidies for automobile ferry service in the United States. Some years ago when I made an inquiry from the National Technical Assistance Program of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the administrators indicated an interest in considering financing a feasibility study for such an automobile ferry service between the islands. A request for such a study at federal expense was never made by the CNMI, Guam, or Interior. It was a classic example of something that was everyone's business winding up no one's business.

A summary of the following action would be necessary: a qualified individual to visit each of the islands to examine the situation and prepare a feasibility study to provide estimates of the following: cost of port and dock construction at each of the four islands; cost of access roads at termini locations; cost of the vessel with a detailed estimate of the annual operating costs including maintenance; estimate the number of days the vessel might be out of operation due to bad weather; evaluate the market for the use of the route on all four islands; determine if Guam would be interested in the concept; estimate the one-way and round-trip cost to the consumer considering

See VISION on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Offisiun katpenteria

Offisiun katpenteru humidde na cho'chu'. I paire guine na offisiu libianu hafa' bintaha un' dañkulon troñkun hayu desde lasas papa' esta i hali'.

Ha utot, dismonta yan ha lasas ensegidas. Ha rikohe i hagin para bokan pinegsaiña guaka yan chiba. I troñku ha sisi papa' gi fedda' na tablon yan otu minedoñg hayu siha ni siña mana setbe gi mahatsan guma. Che'chu tudu dia este na patte gi che'cho'ña.

Gi oran deskansoña, ha chule' i teteñnan gi seblan hayu ya matinas otu kosas siha tat kumu siya, lamasa, kuadrun litratu, yan linasguen attista para adotnan halom guma'.

Yangin para u ekstende manu na patte gi gima', pues esta monhayan planuña. Ha tutuhon mañachag deste oga'an esta i minachom atdau. Guaha 'nai tinaka' esta tres dias este na cho'chu'. Gigong monhayan ha tutuhon umatane gi sagan niha.

Maila' ta polu na kontodu bote ha fatinas. Ha upus i rubentason pumeska lau klaru ha komprende na libianu-gue' mapua ya amafondu botiña gi halom chubasku. Halie' lokue' na achog halom tasi, guaha esta fumatinase-gue chalan bote. Haf' moralidad este na estoria?

Hemplon hinimidde

Man-hugagandu ham gi plasan eskuela 'nai malofan un' amku' yan dos kostat 50 libra na pañglau. Hanae'yu' siñku granu ya ilegña, "Usune este maseha dididi' sa' para bai' bende pumalu para fahan pugas yan dididi' lateria para iya hame".

Esta pa'gu gaige ha' gi talañga-hu ekun motmut himidde gi ayu na fino' amku'. Taimalefag-hu i animu umepañglau entalu' hagas gayera katan esta iya Chalan Laulau. Sosogun masahalom 'nai ha kontinua pinekatña para iya siha. Tula noche guihe na pueñge hu huhuñgog ekun bosña yan humidden mañana.

Un' dia nai taya' totchen mame, hu dalalag un' che'lu-hu umepa-

ñglau. Humidde na tane' lau benefisiosu para enteru familia 'nai mañena ham guihe na pueñge kaddun pañglau.

Usun palabra

Sessu ta fagas pachot-ta ayu na palabra i "nuebu". Tana' setbe gi "nuebu" na kareta, nuebu na guma, nuebu na muda yan maseha haf' ni ilegta nuebu. Kase dinanche i usun palabra.

Bes enkuando, gigon magahet na un' sen-repara kau guaha nuebu siempre hineñgañg hau sa' taya'. Pot ihemplu: I atdau kahulu' gi sanhaya dispues tumunog gi sanlagu. Esta pa'gu tatnai hulie' i atdau kahulu' gi sanlagu.

I sadog siha gi enteru elmundu gigon machuda', huyuñg esta i tasi 'nai haluga'-gue'. Repara, sa' maseha kuantu na hanom machuda' guatu gi tasi, tatnai talie' bumula halom laguna 'sino rubentason. Esta pa'gu este masusesede ya tatnai talie' matulaika.

I tanu' gagaige ha' guine deste tiempun antigu. Man-mattu i man-mofona dispues man-hanau. Hita lokue' man-mattu hit ya un' dia siempre tapan hanau. Este na pañgpañg napu ordinariu ya tatnai hulie' matulaika.

'An manana si Yuus, gaige i mapagahes gi lañget. 'An pueñge i pilan yan pution siha. Desde ke mañgomprende-yu' esta pa'gu, parehu gaige diariu yan noche i mapagahes, pulan yan pution. Tatnai matulaika este gi tinituhon ha'ane yan lemlem tautau. Pues hafa' nuebu?

Maliñgun fuetsan hoben

'An finañgun siñkuenta na sakan hau para tatte, esta kase man-hihita gi tropan "ruskete". Guiya este na idat 'nai achog ñamu tumotpe sanotnu mampos puti.

Antes, esta hunu' checheffa macheteghu 'an hu sague'. Pagu, guahu chumecheffa para u lie' i bisinu na gagaige ha' fuetsaghu. Ai ya ha tuñgu' na ruskete esta i sensin koduhu. Gupot!

■ ■ ■

Tres años deste hu tanom un' dañkulon niyog Yap mattu ni sumenla'la' na esta pumalalapa hagoña gi halom mañglu'. Hu lamse

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



machitegh-hu ya humihot-yu'. Hu ñañgon na kumu ti manogcha' gi sigiente sakan para bai' fa' patnitus. Tres mesis dispues manogcha'. Hu ñañgon lokue' troñkun laguana. Kontodu guiya manogcha' kantida na fruta. De dios!

■ ■ ■

'Nai mattu hiyuñg Saipan un' US Carrier, man-makombida offisiat siha para umalie' haf' guaha 'sino fuetsaño ayu na batku. Ti hu hassu haye gobietnu lau sumaunau i amku'.

Ni unu tumuñgu haf' para umasusede 'an sige halom i ruplanu gi Carrier. Era, ginanchu troñkun redaña ni kadena ya gotpe sumaga. Kanaha' ti masoda' niyog niha i mañanau.

Dispues mankineni' ni admirante para i sanhilu' para umalie' gumupu dos ruplanun gera (F-15). Sige man-ega' 'nai malofan i dos ruplanu. I unu ha punu' makinaña ya pañgpañg i mafanana'an "sonic boom". Un' sumen dañkulu na pagpag na kanaha' i bisitan Marianas mañgañgas i rehas batku ni mahñgang niha.

Gi birada, ti matuñgu' lokue' na siempre u ginede ta'lu i troñkun reda ni kadena ya u flinecha huyuñg gi tasi. Ai 'nai flinecha, estaba talañgan niha gi tatten ilun niha lau ni unu siña kalamten.

'Nai man-makombida para sena guihe na pueñge gi batku, man-oppe i gobietnu po'lu dialu tatnai sisida u muta' 'an gini'ut gotpe 'sino flinecha ta'lu i ruplanu ni kadena.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the voters decide on Article 12

I was pleased to see my friend, Mr. Gerry Perez, the chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. I was particularly pleased to hear Mr. Perez's presentation to the general membership of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last week.

Mr. Perez brought up many significant points about the stagnant economy that we are presently experiencing in the CNMI. I urge everyone to read the article in Thursday's print media.

I will be the first to admit that the framers of our Constitution during the first Constitutional Convention in the mid-'70s knew exactly what they were doing when they decided to incorporate Article 12 into our Constitution. The threshold start of the 25 years called for in Article 12 was Nov. 3, 1986, the date when the Northern Mariana Islands became a U.S. Commonwealth and the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau became independent "island nations." These changes commenced when the U.N. Trusteeship was terminated. The United States as the administering authority of these Micronesian islands also ended simultaneously.

It wasn't until the termination of the Trusteeship that the residents of the CNMI were able to obtain U.S. passports. Prior to that time, most of us traveled with the passport issued by the Trust Territory government. The 25 years expired on Nov. 3, 2011, and the CNMI government and its people are free to decide what to do with fee simple, privately owned land.

I think it is time to enact a legislative initiative on Article 12, and accord the voters to decide whether or not to repeal Article 12. Get every eligible voter to cast his or her vote on the issue. We must be mindful that we opted to become American citizens and with it comes the obligation and responsibility to live by the provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

VISION

From Page 10

the amenities of an overnight ocean voyage as compared with the current cost of round-trip air fare, vehicle, and hotel accommodation rental at each end of the route; evaluate potential military use; determine the one-way and round-trip cost to the vehicle operator and calculate the amount of a government subsidy required, if any; and determine the required environmental impact assessment.

The above evaluation was not an insurmountable task. Sometime

This is what will happen if and when repeal Article 12:

The land you own will continue to be yours.

You are free to decide what to do with your land. It is legally yours and no one can stop you from making your own decision because it is yours.

You can apply for a loan with any of the lending institutions and use your land as collateral. The money you borrow may be used to pay for a host of needed items and for the improvement of your family's wellbeing.

You can borrow money using your land as collateral and build yourself a nice home and repay the loan on a long term.

If you are in military service you can apply for a home loan and Veterans Administration will guarantee your loan on special arrangement.

Federal Housing Administration will I am sure, extend mortgage insurance facilities to the CNMI and will enable local businesses to be involved in housing development. The local lending institution will be able to sell the papers to the secondary market.

You can sell it if that is your choice or you are free to decide not to sell your land. Again the choice is yours.

You can use your land as leverage for investment and negotiate with interested prospective investor to accord certain percentage of ownership in the business.

There are a host of options available at your disposal if Article 12 is repealed.

The CNMI will be well on its way to a healthy economy and some of our economic problems will begin to show positive signs.

I recently looked up the definition of the word "culture." The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines culture as *the art and other*

ago in the mid-'90s when I prepared the CNMI's Overall Economic Development Program to meet the requirements of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, that agency indicated a willingness to consider financing such a financial feasibility study.

There are also "social benefits" that cannot be precisely measured in dollars.

Now, many years later I do not know if all the elements to make such a project a reality are still available or not. If there is any interest in the concept someone else should do the research. I am happy that finally an interest has been generated in such a ferry service, regardless of the origin of the vessel.

manifestation of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively. There have been many discussions about the preservation of culture. I personally respect and endorse the preservation of culture, whatever that may be. Culture is a phenomenon that is not tied to the land. It is within you. I see thousands of our people migrating to the United States from the CNMI and still practice their culture/custom.

Thank you for the privilege in allowing me to publicly express my personal views about Article 12 of our Constitution.

David M. Sablan Sr.

Papago, Saipan

Where is the beef

First of all, attacking Mr. Ambrose Bennett as a person is not the issue, but what he says is. When one plasters the media with reasons about a thought, attacking the reasons he published or stated is fair game. Now let me just plainly explain and elementarily express what the reasons are for taking a position over what Mr. Bennett is saying or not saying. You see, a reason has at least two distinct meanings. One is a cause-and-effect meaning: There is a reason why water expands when it freezes into ice or contracts when it is heated to steam, even though most of us who are not physicists do not know what that reason is and at one time no one knew. The other meaning of reason is articulated specification of causation or logic: When it is demanded that an individual or a society justify an action before the bar of reason, this is what is meant.

It seems that Mr. Bennett has an argument about the ferry vessel sitting idle at a seaport in Alaska. If he has articulated all the reasons about this hardware being an efficient tool for the ferry transportation system here in the CNMI, where are the evidences that he expertly knows about sustaining that this machine would actually work? Without the good and articulated reasons to all these, no one would intelligently agree with him. On the other hand, if Mr. Bennett is saying that an official in DPW is also championing the same thoughts he has, that is another issue and a matter to be discussed on another day. Now, let that official speak for himself and let us check out all the reasons behind a thought that parallels Mr. Bennett's idea. All I am saying to Mr. Bennett is: Where is the beef on this? The next step is to figure out all the reasons below the iceberg just to make sure that we in the CNMI are not dragged into a situation of shooting first, then aiming later.






Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼81

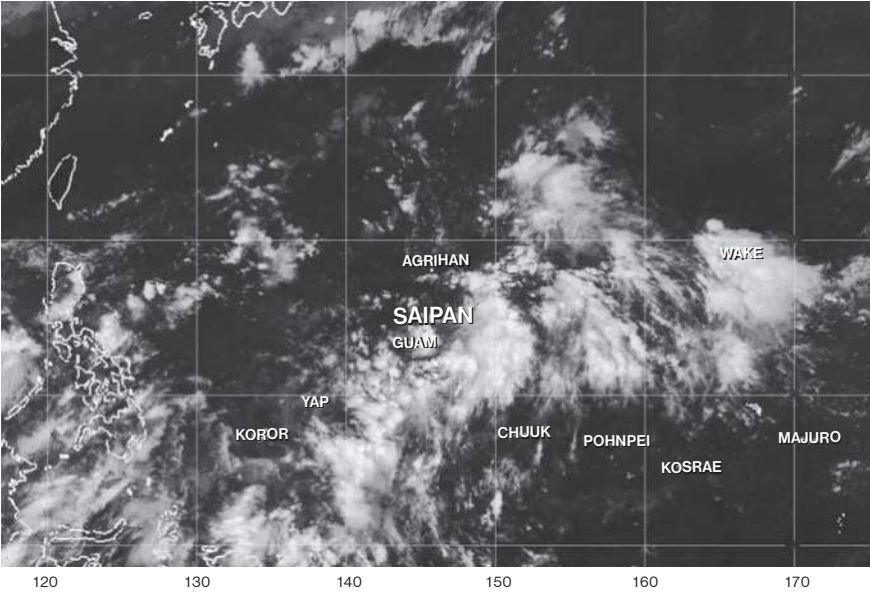
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼62
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼74
London	Windy	▲63 ▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼64
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼73
Paris	Showers	▲68 ▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼71
Rome	Cloudy	▲79 ▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲87 ▼60
San Francisco	Sunny	▲79 ▼62
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼69
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼71
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A long surface trough extends from EQ139E northeastward to east of Saipan at 15N148E then continues eastward to south of Wake Island near 16N167E. Widespread cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the large area bounded by EQ139E to 8N139E to 14N144E to 15N147E to 19N151E to 21N165E to 17N171E to 10N165E to 10N150E to EQ144E back to EQ139E. This includes Guam and Rota along with Wake Island but is well north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kwajalein. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of Palau between the equator and 4N from 132E to 139E. A weak trough stretching from 21N131E to 25N134E is producing scattered showers well northwest of the Marianas between 17N and 23N from 133E to 137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Minami Torishima between 20N and 25N from 150E to 157E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:59 AM	9:47 PM
Wednesday	10:56 AM	10:40 PM
Thursday	11:55 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	12:53 PM	
Saturday	1:50 AM	12:35 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:10am	1, 6	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	Z0704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM				
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

How to invest in your health care

NEW YORK (AP)—You already can invest your retirement money and your kid's college savings on Wall Street. Next on the list: your health care.

A growing number of employees are required by companies to set up special savings accounts to cover part of their medical bills. Over time, they are also encouraged to invest a portion of it in stocks, bonds or a mutual fund, just like they do with a 401(k) or IRA.

Americans now have \$18 billion in Health Savings Accounts, a type of plan that allows them to save pre-tax dollars for future medical expenses, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, a non-partisan group that studies worker benefits. That's up more than 40 percent from a year ago. The amount of money in HSAs is expected to double by the end of 2015, according to consulting firm Devenir.

"They have nowhere to go but up," says Paul Fronstin, a researcher at EBRI.

An HSA is similar to the better-known Flexible Spending Account. Like in an FSA, an employee puts pre-tax dollars into a special account to use toward medical expenses not covered by insurance, from dental check-ups to prescription drug co-pays.

But the similarities end there. Unlike an FSA, HSAs do not have a "use it or lose it" rule, so the money carries over year to year. A majority of companies who offer HSAs also contribute to the account, more than \$1,000 a year for families, according to



In this April 28, 2010 file photo, a free eye exam is performed on a patient at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic inside the Los Angeles Sports Arena in Los Angeles. AP

EBRI. HSAs are also portable. An employee can take their HSA to their next job or save the money for future use. The accounts can also provide significant tax advantages when used correctly.

For workers, HSAs offer flexibility, although they are not appropriate for everyone.

For employers the accounts can provide savings. The plans have been shown to slow the rise in health care costs, or even lower them.

For Wall Street, HSA's are another way to make money. Why? The savings in HSAs can be invested once they hit a certain threshold, typically \$2,000.

Nearly all HSA accounts are used in combination with a type of health insurance known as a high-deductible health plan, or HDHP. These plans are also sometimes known as a "Consumer Driven Health Plan." As their name implies, HDHPs have high deductibles, often \$1,200 or greater for a single person, or \$2,400 for a family.

HDHPs provide coverage for medical emergencies, leaving the day-to-day health care costs to the employee. HSAs can be used along with a HDHP to help offset those day-to-day costs.

When used correctly, HSAs can also provide a triple tax advantage, something even a 401(k) or IRA cannot do. The money put into an HSA is not subject to federal income tax and if the money is invested, any growth is tax-free as well. Any money used toward eligible medical expenses can be tax-free too.

If your employer hasn't offered an HDHP plan yet, it's only a matter of time. By next year, 80 percent of all large employers will offer a HDHP,

according to 2013 employer survey by Towers Watson. The vast majority of those HDHP plans will include an HSA, according to the survey.

"Companies are becoming more interested in offering medical benefits that put a lot of the ownership on the employee," says Elizabeth Ryan, head of Wells Fargo's Health Benefit Services.

A 2011 study by the non-partisan RAND Corporation showed that families who were enrolled in a these types of plans reduced their health care spending by 14 percent. However, families also spent less on preventative care.

"The whole idea of these account-based plans is that when

people have skin in the game they'll make super-wise decisions regarding their health care spending," says Amelia Haviland, who co-authored the study and is an associate professor in statistics and health policy at Carnegie Mellon University.

Banks have embraced HSAs, and banking industry experts say the plans could become a big business for Wall Street, just as 401(k)s did. Banks earn money just by opening the accounts for employees and charging fees on the debit cards tied to them.

They also earn a fee, typically 1 percent, for managing the mutual funds where people invest HSA money. Of the \$18 billion Americans have set aside in HSAs, \$2.3 billion will be invested this year, according to Devenir. The amount invested five years ago was just a tenth of that, \$200 million.

Devenir's President and Co-Founder Erik Remjeske estimates that HSAs have generated revenue of about \$200 million for the industry in the past year, including all the fees from investing to administration.

Wells Fargo has been offering HSAs since they were created 10 years ago as part of the 2003 Medicare overhaul. Wells Fargo's Ryan says the bank handles more than \$1 billion in assets in HSAs, spread across 400,000 accounts. While most of Wells business is handling HSAs for employers, there is a growing business of individuals opening the plans, Ryan says.

"They may have purchased insurance on their own, and they may already be banking with Wells Fargo, so it's a natural progression because they have other financial products with us," she says.

Of the people who have an HSA, 56 percent are below the age of 45, according to a 2012 survey by JPMorgan Chase, which also offers HSA plans. Only two percent of JPMorgan's customers over 65 have an HSA.

FHB'S new Mobile Deposit makes depositing checks easy

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Starting Sept. 6, First Hawaiian Bank began offering Mobile Deposit, an innovative service that allows customers to deposit checks using their smartphones or iPads, according to an announcement yesterday by Bob Harrison, the bank's president and chief executive officer.

Mobile Deposit is yet another feature of FHB Mobile Banking and represents the latest addition to a long list of electronic banking convenience offerings by the bank. The easy-to-use Mobile Deposit feature lets you take a photo of a check and deposit it directly into your eligible FHB checking account using an iPhone, iPad or Android mobile device.

This is a free service for FHB Online customers who are signed up for Mobile Banking. Signing up for FHB Mobile Banking is simple and customers have the option to use their cell phone or mobile device to bank on-the-go, using a mobile web browser or by downloading a free APP for the iPhone, iPad, or Android device from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

"Mobile Deposit continues First Hawaiian's strong commitment to providing innovative and convenient solutions for our valued customers," said Curt Otaguro, First Hawaiian Bank's executive vice president, Personal and e-Banking Division. "When the bank launched its service back in 1996, we were the first local bank to introduce an online banking solution in Hawaii. We now offer an array of online and mobile banking services, making it easier for customers to manage their finances safely and securely anywhere and anytime that's convenient for them. We are committed to continuously enhancing our customers' banking experience."

For more information about FHB Mobile Deposit, visit <https://www.fhb.com/mobile> or download the FHB Mobile App today.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com), with assets of \$16.6 billion, was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 57 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two on Saipan. (**FHB**)

Study: 401(k) retirement plans failing most workers

By **CONSTANTINE VON HOFFMAN**
CBS MONEYWATCH

According to a new study, the 401(k) savings account isn't adequately providing for people's retirement and is adding to the nation's growing wealth inequality.

The report from the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal-leaning public policy think-tank, illustrates how the shift from pensions to individual savings accounts has affected retirees. The authors find that it is the wealthiest workers who are benefiting the most because they can actually contribute enough to make 401(k) plans work for retirement.

"401(k)s were never designed to replace pensions for most workers. They serve primarily as a tax shelter for high

earners," said economist Monique Morrissey, the report's co-author, in a statement. "The 401(k) revolution has been a disaster, yet some policymakers are calling for cuts to Social Security, which will be the only significant source of retirement income for most Americans—if they are able to retire in the first place."

The report also found:

■ Households earning in the top fifth accounted for 72 percent of total savings in retirement accounts in 2010 and were the only income group that had more than their annual income saved in these accounts.

■ Participation in defined-benefit pensions by workers from 25 to 61 years old declined over the past decade, from 52 percent in 2000 to 45 percent in 2010.

■ For single people, black and Hispanic households and those headed by someone without a college degree, the median household has no savings in retirement accounts.

■ On average, white households have more than six times as much saved in retirement accounts as Hispanic or black households.

■ Also, households with a college degree have six times the amount saved in retirement accounts compared to those with only high school degrees.

According to the report, retirement-income inequality has grown in part because most 401(k) participants are required to contribute to these plans in order to participate, whereas workers are automatically enrolled in defined-benefit pen-

sions and, in the private sector, are not required to contribute to these plans. Thus, higher-income workers are much more likely to participate in defined-contribution plans. In addition, higher-income workers have more disposable income and a higher investment-risk tolerance, receive larger tax breaks, and are more likely to work for employers that provide generous matches.

There is little sign of improvement any time soon. While younger workers, who have seen their job choices downsized in the wake of the recession, should be saving more to make up for the loss in pension and Social Security benefits, their retirement savings have stayed flat or even declined in recent years.

Nation

US: Proven link of Assad to gas attack lacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House asserted Sunday that a “common-sense test” dictates the Syrian government is responsible for a chemical weapons attack that President Barack Obama says demands a U.S. military response. But Obama’s top aide says the administration lacks “irrefutable, beyond-a-reasonable-doubt evidence” that skeptical Americans, including lawmakers who will start voting on military action this week, are seeking.

“This is not a court of law. And intelligence does not work that way,” White House chief

of staff Denis McDonough said during his five-network public relations blitz Sunday to build support for limited strikes against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

“The common-sense test says he is responsible for this. He should be held to account,” McDonough said of the Syrian leader who for two years has resisted calls from inside and outside his country to step down.

Asked in another interview about doubt, McDonough

was direct: “No question in my mind.”



McDonough

The U.S., citing intelligence reports, says the lethal nerve agent sarin was used in an Aug. 21 attack outside Damascus, and that 1,429 people died, including 426 children.

The number is higher than that, said Khalid Saleh, head of the press office at the anti-Assad Syrian Coalition, who was in Washington to lobby lawmakers to authorize the strikes. Some of those involved

in the attacks later died in their homes and opposition leaders were weighing releasing a full list of names of the dead.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which collects information from a network of anti-government activists, says it has so far only been able to confirm 502 dead.

The actual tally of those killed by chemical weapons is scant compared to the sum of all killed in the upheaval: more than 100,000, according to the United Nations.

In an interview Sunday, Assad told U.S. journalist

Charlie Rose there is not conclusive evidence about who is to blame for the chemical weapons attacks and again suggested the rebels were responsible. From Beirut, Rose described his interview, which is to be released Monday on the CBS morning program that Rose hosts, with the full interview airing later in the day on Rose’s PBS program.

Asked about Assad’s claims there is no evidence he used the weapons, Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters in London: “The evidence

speaks for itself.”

At the same time, Obama has planned his own public relations effort. He has scheduled six network interviews on Monday and then a primetime speech to the nation from the White House on Tuesday, the eve of the first votes in Congress.

Sunday night, Obama dropped in on a dinner held by Vice President Joe Biden for Republican senators, including Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Nyad’s team responds to skeptics doubting her swim



In this Monday, Sept. 2, 2013 file photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, Diana Nyad emerges from the Atlantic Ocean after completing a 111-mile swim from Cuba to Key West, Fla.

MIAMI (AP)—Diana Nyad’s 110-mile swim from Cuba to Florida has generated positive publicity and adoration for the 64-year-old endurance athlete—along with skepticism from some members of the small community of marathon swimmers who are questioning whether she accomplished the feat honestly.

On social media and the online Marathon Swimmers Forum, long-distance swimmers have been debating whether Nyad got a boost from the boat that was accompanying her—either by getting in it or holding onto it—during a particularly speedy stretch of her swim. They also question whether she violated the traditions of her sport—many follow strict guidelines known as the English Channel rules—by using a specialized mask and body suit to protect herself from jellyfish.

“When you know how hard it is, you kind of want those details,” said Andrew Malinak, a Seattle long-distance swimmer who crunched the data available from the GPS positions tracked on Nyad’s website and concluded that he didn’t trust what he saw.

Nyad’s navigator and one of the swim’s official observers told The Associated Press this weekend that Nyad didn’t cheat and that she was aided during the rapid part of her swim by a swift current. And neither Nyad nor her team ever said she would follow English Channel rules, developed for swimming the waters between England and France. Those rules outlaw neoprene wetsuits and contact with a support boat. Nyad wore a full non-neoprene bodysuit, gloves, booties and a silicone mask at night, when jellyfish are a particular problem, and

removed the suit once she got over the reef on her approach to Key West.

According to Nyad’s team, she finished the swim Monday afternoon after roughly 53 hours in the water, becoming the first to do so without a shark cage. It was her fifth try, an endeavor apparently free from the boat troubles, bad weather, illnesses and jellyfish encounters that have bedeviled Nyad and other swimmers in recent years.

Nyad’s progress was tracked online via GPS by her team, and some critics say they think information is missing.

Many wonder about a roughly seven-hour stretch when Nyad apparently didn’t stop to eat or drink, recalling her 2012 attempt when she got onto the boat for hours during rough weather. Nyad eventually got back into the water to try finishing, but her team was criticized

for delaying the release of that information to the public.

Malinak said the hours-long spike in Nyad’s speed after 27 hours of swimming is particularly questionable—she went from her normal pace of roughly 1.5 mph to more than 3 mph, then slowed down again as she approached Key West.

Nyad’s spokeswoman did not immediately return telephone calls this weekend, but her navigator and Janet Hinkle, one of the official observers for the swim, told the AP that Nyad didn’t cheat.

Navigator John Bartlett said the increased speed was due to the fast-moving Gulf Stream working in her favor, nothing more.

“At some points we were doing almost 4 miles an hour,” Bartlett said. “That’s just the way it works. If the current is in your favor at all, that explains it.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Fan falls, dies at 49ers-Packers game in SF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A football fan fell to his death from an elevated pedestrian walkway Sunday at Candlestick Park during the 49ers’ final season opener at the San Francisco stadium, police said. The death came just after kickoff at about 1:30 p.m. in the 49ers’ 34-28 win over Green Bay, police said, and multiple witnesses reported the man appeared to be intoxicated before he fell to a sidewalk. The death also happened the same day a railing collapsed at the Colts’ game against the Raiders in Indianapolis injuring two fans who were leaning against the barrier above the tunnel leading to Oakland’s locker room. It appeared both fans in Indiana escaped serious injury, stadium officials said.

Arkansas SWAT officers kill man, 107, in standoff

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (AP)—A 107-year-old man was killed after SWAT officers shot back at him during a standoff at a home, police in the southeastern Arkansas city of Pine Bluff said Sunday. Police were called to the home Saturday afternoon about a disturbance and say officers arrived to find Monroe Isadore had threatened two people by pointing a weapon at them. Officers had the pair leave the home for their own safety and approached a bedroom looking for Isadore. When the officers announced who they were, Isadore shot through the door at them but missed hitting them, said Pine Bluff Lt. David Price in a news release. He said Isadore began to fire at the officers and they fired back, killing him.

12 children hurt when Conn. fair ride loses power

NORWALK, Conn. (AP)—A dozen children were injured when an amusement ride at a Connecticut fair broke down on Sunday, sending the swinging riders careening into each other when the ride came to a sudden halt, authorities said. One adult was also among the 13 people transported to hospitals after the mishap at Norwalk’s Oyster Festival. Norwalk police Lt. Paul Resnick said an 8-year-old boy was admitted to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The rest were treated and released. Five other people refused treatment at the scene, police said.

NAACP President Ben Jealous to step down this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous, who is credited with boosting finances at the nation’s largest civil rights organization and helping to stabilize it, said Sunday that he plans to step down at the end of the year. The Baltimore-based National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said that its rosters of online activists and donors have grown tremendously during his five-year tenure. Jealous was the group’s youngest-ever leader when he was hired as its president at age 35 in 2008. In a written statement Sunday, Jealous, now 40, said he plans to pursue teaching at a university and wants to spend time with his young family.

Yellowstone officials investigate girl’s death

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP)—Yellowstone National Park officials are investigating after an Idaho woman reported her 3-year-old daughter shot herself with a handgun in a campground. Park rangers responded Saturday morning to Grant Village Campground, but resuscitation efforts failed, resulting in what officials said was the first shooting death in the park since 1978. Park spokesman Al Nash said Sunday that part of the campground remained cordoned off while park rangers and special park agents conduct the investigation. He said he didn’t know where the girl’s body was taken.

Asia

Filipino rebels storm villages, take hostages

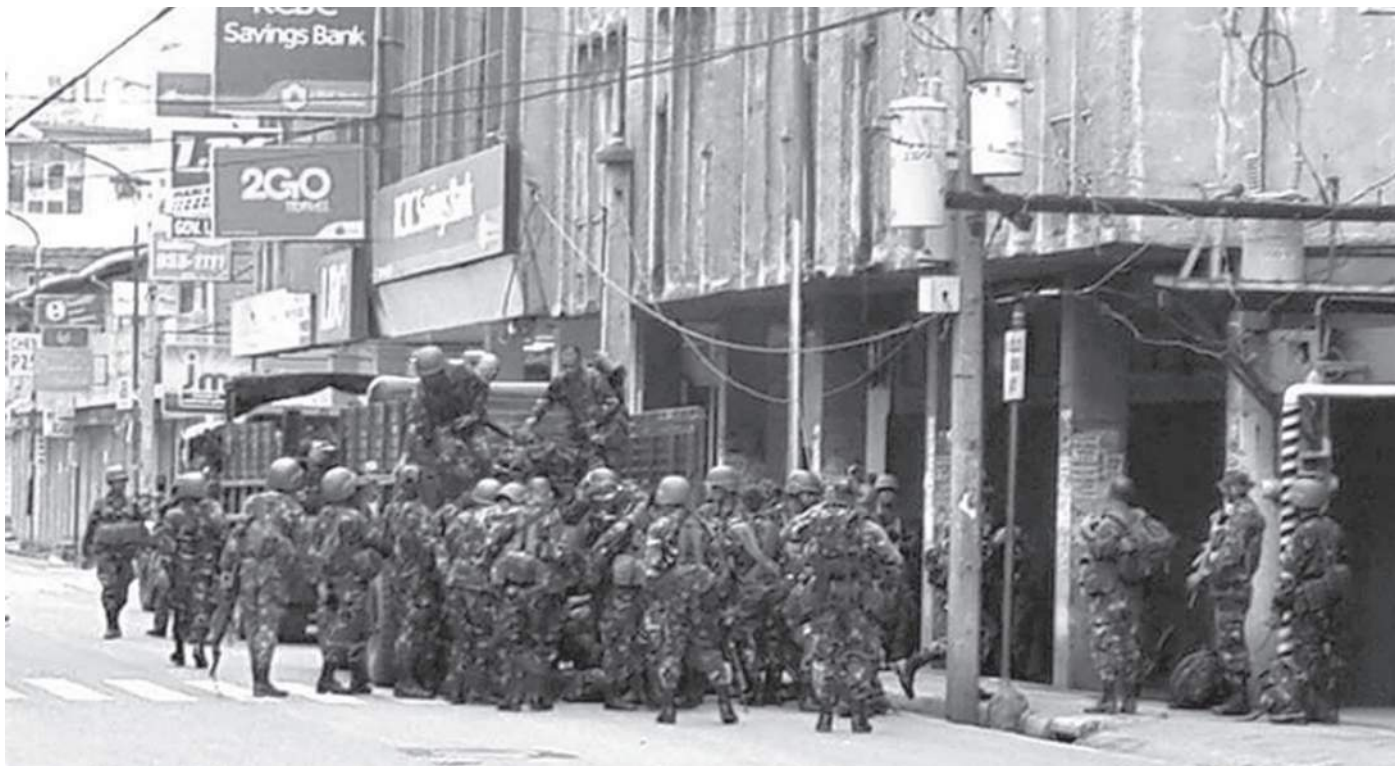
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine navy patrol clashed early Monday with suspected Muslim rebels aboard several boats off a key southern city, before the rebels stormed a coastal community and took about a dozen hostages, officials said.

Reinforcement troops and police have been deployed to surround the crowded neighborhood of Rio Hondo, which is located near the downtown area of Zamboanga, a bustling trading hub in the south. Regional police chief Juanito Bano said 20 Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas are believed to be holding 10 to 15 people hostage there.

"We're now containing them," Bano told DZMM radio. "Hopefully, we can get these civilians and then engage the gunmen properly."

Officials said 1 navy soldier and 10 navy and police personnel were wounded in the pre-dawn battle.

U.S. counterterrorism forces who have been providing training to Filipino troops since 2002 are based in a Philippine



In this handout photo released by the Philippine Information Agency Region IX shows Philippine military troops come down from a military truck as they secure an area in Zamboanga city, southern Philippines, Monday Sept. 9, 2013.

military camp in a part of Zamboanga city that has so far been unaffected by the skirmishes.

The Moro group signed a 1996 peace accord with the

government, but hundreds of its fighters held on to their arms and have since accused officials of reneging on a promise to develop an autonomous region for

minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.

The group later split into factions and faded in the back-

ground as its largest break-away guerrilla bloc, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, gained strength and continued fighting for self-rule for minority Muslims.

The 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front later engaged the Philippine government in Malaysian-brokered peace talks, which have progressed recently toward a new Muslim autonomy deal. Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas led by its commander Nur Misuari felt left out and have issued new threats to secede from their remaining strongholds like southern Jolo island, a few hours by boat from Zamboanga city.

The trouble in Zamboanga city apparently began late Sunday when policemen arrested five Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas who were wearing combat camouflage uniforms and carrying pistols in Rio Hondo, officials said.

Indian troops sent to halt deadly communal clashes

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Hundreds of troops have been deployed to quell deadly riots and clashes between Hindus and Muslims sparked by the killing of three villagers who had objected when a young woman was being harassed in northern India.

Police said 19 people were killed, including an Indian broadcast journalist, a police photographer and several people who on Sunday succumbed to injuries received a day earlier when the two groups set upon each other with guns and knives in Kawal village, in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The violence quickly spread to neighboring villages in Muzaffarnagar district Saturday night.

"A curfew has been imposed in three riot-hit areas of Muzaffarnagar," said the head of the state's home ministry, R.M. Srivastava. "The situation is still very tense, but under control."

Soldiers were going door to door to search for weapons. A state of high alert was declared for the entire state of Uttar Pradesh, which has a population of 200 million people.

The clashes broke out Saturday after thousands of Hindu farmers held a meeting in Kaw-

al to demand justice in the Aug. 27 killing of three men who had spoken out when a woman was being verbally harassed.

The state's minority welfare minister, Mohammad Azam Khan, said some at the meeting gave provocative speeches calling for Muslims to be killed.

The farmers were attacked as they were returning home after the meeting, senior police official Arun Kumar said.

"The attack seemed well planned," Kumar said. "Some were armed with rifles and sharp-edged weapons."

Gunfire was reported from sev-

eral areas of the village. Within hours clashes broke out in neighboring villages, Kumar said.

A leader from the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party said tensions had been simmering since the three men were killed Aug. 27 in a tea shop.

"Had the killers been arrested, the situation might not have gone out of hand," Vijay Bahadur Pathak said.

Uttar Pradesh was at the heart of some of India's worst communal clashes in December 1992, after a Hindu mob razed the 16th-century Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

Aboriginal woman's Aussie Senate bid brings abuse

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Facing the prospect of becoming the first Aboriginal woman to win a seat in Australia's Parliament, Nova Peris said Sunday that she was targeted during her campaign by the worst onslaught of racial abuse she had ever endured.

After then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard hand-picked Peris in January to head the center-left Labor Party's Senate ticket in the Northern Territory—an almost unbeatable position that virtually assured her place in Australian political history—she was bombarded with hate letters and emails that were so extreme she passed them to police.

"It's not a nice feeling to be judged and looked down upon because of the color of your skin," Peris said Sunday. "I had a string of letters and emails sent to me and they were horrific. And my husband was really,



In this June 7, 2000 photo, then Australian Olympic sprinter Nova Peris who will start the Australian leg of the Olympic torch at the heart of Australia.

really upset."

"They were pretty nasty. The worst I've ever seen in my

life," she said, declining to go into details.

But the threats did not deter

her, and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist hockey player contested the Senate seat in elections Saturday. She appeared comfortably ahead in vote counting Sunday, but was not yet ready to claim victory.

"It's like waiting for the result of a photo finish," said Peris, comparing her anxious wait for the count to be finalized to her days as a world-class sprinter.

Aborigines are a minority of only 600,000 in Australia's population of 23 million. The lack of Aboriginal representation in Parliament is a growing embarrassment for the leaders of major political parties.

No Aborigine had sat in Parliament before Neville Bonner arrived in 1971. The conservative Liberal Party senator, who had little formal education, was the only Aborigine in Parliament for the next 12 years before he was voted out.

ACROSS THE NATION

NATO accused of killing Afghan civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials accused NATO of killing civilians in an airstrike that left at least 10 dead in the country's remote east, while the Taliban on Sunday staged a car bomb and gun attack outside an Afghan intelligence office, killing four soldiers and wounding more than 80 people. Meanwhile, the Afghan government reacted angrily to a comment by an American envoy who said Afghanistan is already experiencing "a civil war." The airstrike and Taliban attack underscored the chronic insecurity in Afghanistan as U.S.-led foreign forces reduce their presence and hand over more responsibilities to Afghan troops. The car bombing occurred in Maidan Shahr, a city in eastern Wardak province just 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Kabul.

Blast outside school in China kills at least 1

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion Tuesday morning outside a school in southern China killed at least one person and injured several others. Initial reports from the scene described the blast in the resort city of Guilin as an accident, although police declined to confirm that. There were no reports of students among the injured. The explosion struck about 7 a.m. as children were arriving at Balijie Primary School. The official Xinhua News Agency cited an eyewitness saying a motorized flatbed tricycle caught fire as it was passing the school and then exploded, setting other vehicles on fire and blowing out the windows in nearby buildings. Such tricycles are frequently used to transport goods in smaller Chinese cities.

Pakistani president steps down as his term ends

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari stepped down Sunday at the end of his five-year term, becoming the first democratically elected president in the country's history to complete his full term in office. At a ceremony at the presidency shown live on state television, an honor guard bid farewell to a smiling Zardari. His successor, Mamnoon Hussain, is scheduled to be sworn in Monday. Zardari rose to power after assassination of his wife, two-time Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a gun and bomb attack in Dec. 2007. Analysts count his government's completion of a full term in a hostile political environment to his credit, as well as his strong stance against Islamic militancy.

Thai Airways skids off runway; 14 passengers hurt

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai Airways says one of its Airbus A330-300 planes has skidded off the runway while landing at Bangkok's main airport, injuring 14 passengers. Thai Airways said on its Twitter account Monday that flight TG679 from Guangzhou, China, had a "glitch" in its wheel base while landing at Suvarnabhumi Airport. It said the injured passengers were sent to hospitals. Pictures of late Sunday night's incident showed the plane resting in grass beside the runway with its nose down and emergency slides inflated. Officials said the runway will be temporarily closed.

World

Doubts linger over Syria gas attack responsibility

BEIRUT (AP)—The U.S. government insists it has the intelligence to prove it, but the public has yet to see a single piece of concrete evidence produced by U.S. intelligence—no satellite imagery, no transcripts of Syrian military communications—connecting the government of President Bashar Assad to the alleged chemical weapons attack last month that killed hundreds of people.

In its absence, Damascus and its ally Russia have aggressively pushed another scenario: that rebels carried out the Aug. 21 chemical attack. Neither has produced evidence for that case, either. That's left more questions than answers as the U.S. threatens a possible military strike.

The early morning assault in a rebel-held Damascus suburb known as Ghouta was said to be the deadliest chemical weapons attack in Syria's 2 1/2-year civil war. Survivors' accounts, photographs of many of the dead wrapped peacefully in white sheets and dozens of videos showing victims in spasms and gasping for breath shocked the world and moved President Barack Obama to call for action because the use of chemical weapons crossed the red line he had drawn a year earlier.

Yet one week after Secre-



In this Aug. 29, 2013 citizen journalism image provided by the Local Comity of Arbeen which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, a member of a UN investigation team takes samples from the ground in the Damascus countryside of Zamalka, Syria.

tary of State John Kerry outlined the case against Assad, Americans—at least those without access to classified reports—haven't seen a shred of his proof.

There is open-source evidence that provides clues about the attack, including videos of fragments from the rockets that analysts believe were likely used. U.S. officials on Saturday

released a compilation of videos showing victims, including children, exhibiting what appear to be symptoms of nerve gas poisoning. Some experts think the size of the strike, and the

amount of toxic chemicals that appear to have been delivered, make it doubtful that the rebels could have carried it out.

What's missing from the public record is direct proof, rather than circumstantial evidence, tying this to the regime.

The Obama administration, searching for support from a divided Congress and skeptical world leaders, says its own assessment is based mainly on satellite and signals intelligence, including intercepted communications and satellite images indicating that in the three days prior to the attack that the regime was preparing to use poisonous gas.

But multiple requests to view that satellite imagery have been denied, though the administration produced copious amounts of satellite imagery earlier in the war to show the results of the Syrian regime's military onslaught. When asked Friday whether such imagery would be made available showing the Aug. 21 incident, a spokesman referred The Associated Press to a map produced by the White House last week that shows what officials say are the unconfirmed areas that were attacked.

The Obama administration maintains it intercepted communications from a senior Syrian official on the use of chemical weapons, but requests to see that transcript have been denied.

Syrian rebels seize control of Christian village

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Syrian rebels led by al-Qaida-linked fighters seized control of a predominantly Christian village northeast of Damascus, sweeping into the mountain-side sanctuary in heavy fighting overnight and forcing hundreds of residents to flee, activists and locals said Sunday.

The battle over Maaloula, an ancient village that is home to two of the oldest surviving monasteries in Syria, has thrown a spotlight on the deep-seated fears that many of Syria's religious minorities harbor about the growing role of Islamic extremists on the rebel side in the civil war against President Bashar Assad's regime.

The prominence of al-Qaida-linked fighters has factored into the reluctance of Western powers to provide direct military support to the rebels. It has also figured in the debate underway in the U.S. Congress over whether to launch military strikes against Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack last month.

After days of clashes in and around Maaloula, rebels captured the village following fierce fighting late Saturday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights, a monitoring group. Observatory director Rami Abdul-Rahman said the assault was led by Jabhat al-Nusra, an al-Qaida-affiliated group, as well as by the Qalamon Liberation Front.

He said around 1,500 rebels were inside Maaloula, while the army had the village surrounded.

Syria's state news agency provided a dramatically different account of the battle, saying the military reported "progress" in its offensive in Maaloula.

"The army continued its military operation against terrorist elements in Maaloula village and its vicinity, inflicting a heavy casualty in the ranks of the terrorists, including their leaders," the news agency said.

State-run TV reported that all churches in Maaloula were now safe and the army was chasing gunmen in the western hills.

But residents of Maaloula reached by telephone described fierce battles in the streets that forced them and other locals to flee as opposition fighters flooded the village.

One resident said the rebels—many of them wearing beards and shouting, "God is

great!"—attacked Christian homes and churches shortly after seizing the village.

"They shot and killed people. I heard gunshots and then I saw three bodies lying in the middle of a street in the old quarters of the village," the resident said by telephone. "So many people fled the village for safety."

Now, he said, Maaloula "is a ghost town."

"Where is President Obama to see what befallen on us?" asked the man, who fled the village on Sunday. He declined to give his name out of fear for his safety.

Another resident who escaped earlier in the day said Assad's forces were deployed on the outskirts of the village, while gunmen inside refused to allow anybody in. He said that one of the churches, called Demyanos, had been torched and that gunmen stormed into two other churches and robbed them.

A third resident reached by phone said he saw militants forcing some Christian residents to convert to Islam.

"I saw the militants grabbing five villagers Wednesday and threatening them: 'Either you convert to Islam or you will be beheaded,'" he said.

The two other residents said they heard rumors about such conversions but did not see them. The reports could not be independently verified. All three residents spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation.

Situated about 40 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of Damascus, Maaloula had been firmly under the regime's grip despite sitting in the middle of rebel-held territory east and north of the capital.

The village was a major tourist attraction before the civil war. Some of its residents still speak a version of Aramaic, the language of biblical times believed to have been used by Jesus.

The attack highlights fears among Syrian Christians that the alternative to Assad's regime—which is made up mostly of Alawites, followers of an offshoot of Shiite Islam—would not tolerate minority religions.

Such concerns have helped Assad retain the support of large chunks of Syria's minority communities, including Christians, Alawites, Druze and ethnic Kurds. Most of the rebels and their supporters are Sunni Muslims.

Sinai militants killed in Egypt army offensive

CAIRO (AP)—Smoke billowed in the sky as Egyptian helicopter gunships rocketed suspected Islamic militant hideouts in the lawless northern Sinai Peninsula for a second day on Sunday, killing 11 suspected fighters as part of the largest military offensive in the region in years, military officials said.

They say the assault aims to drive out al-Qaida inspired groups from several villages of the restive border region, where militants have established strongholds and stockpiled an unprecedented amount of weapons.

Also Sunday, a militant group in northern Sinai allegedly claimed responsibility for a failed assassination attempt on the country's interior minister last week. In a statement attributed to Ansar Jerusalem posted on militant websites, the Islamic extremist group claimed it was behind the attack on Mohammed Ibrahim. The statement says military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who led a coup against former Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, is another target.

A military official said 11 militants and one soldier were killed in the fighting on Sunday. He said 10 militants had been arrested. A day earlier two sol-

diers and nine militants were killed in the offensive. The official spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to release the information.

Gen. Osama Askar of the 3rd Army told reporters troops had seized at least 10 shoulder-fired Sam-7 anti-aircraft missiles a day earlier. They were found in a mosque and in homes of suspected militants in the town of Sheikh Zuweyid, near the border with the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Western officials say thousands of shoulder-launched missiles went missing from Libyan arsenals since that country's 2011 civil war. Egyptian authorities say Libyan missiles have been smuggled into the Sinai, and some of those have gone on through underground tunnels to Gaza.

Sunday's airstrikes targeted the villages of el-Mahdiya and el-Moqataa on the outskirts of Rafah and Sheikh Zuweyid. One official said U.S.-made Apache helicopters hit shacks, houses, olive farms and cars used by militants.

The strikes paved the way for a ground offensive, allowing troops backed by armored vehicles to sweep homes of suspected militants.

Focus

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shane Salerno's phone never stops ringing.

Known until now as a screenwriter for "Armageddon" and "Savages," working by day on a sequel to "Avatar," he has taken on a surprising and news-making identity: the latest, and, apparently, greatest seeker of clues about J.D. Salinger.

Salerno is finally opening up about a private quest he worked on for a decade, spending \$2 million of his own money. Stating that he has found more than even he had imagined, including what the author might have written over the last half century of his life, Salerno is presenting his case in "Salinger," a unique, 3-way project: A 700-page book, co-authored with David Shields; a theatrical release distributed by the Weinstein Company; and a TV documentary that will air on PBS in January as the 200th installment of "American Masters."

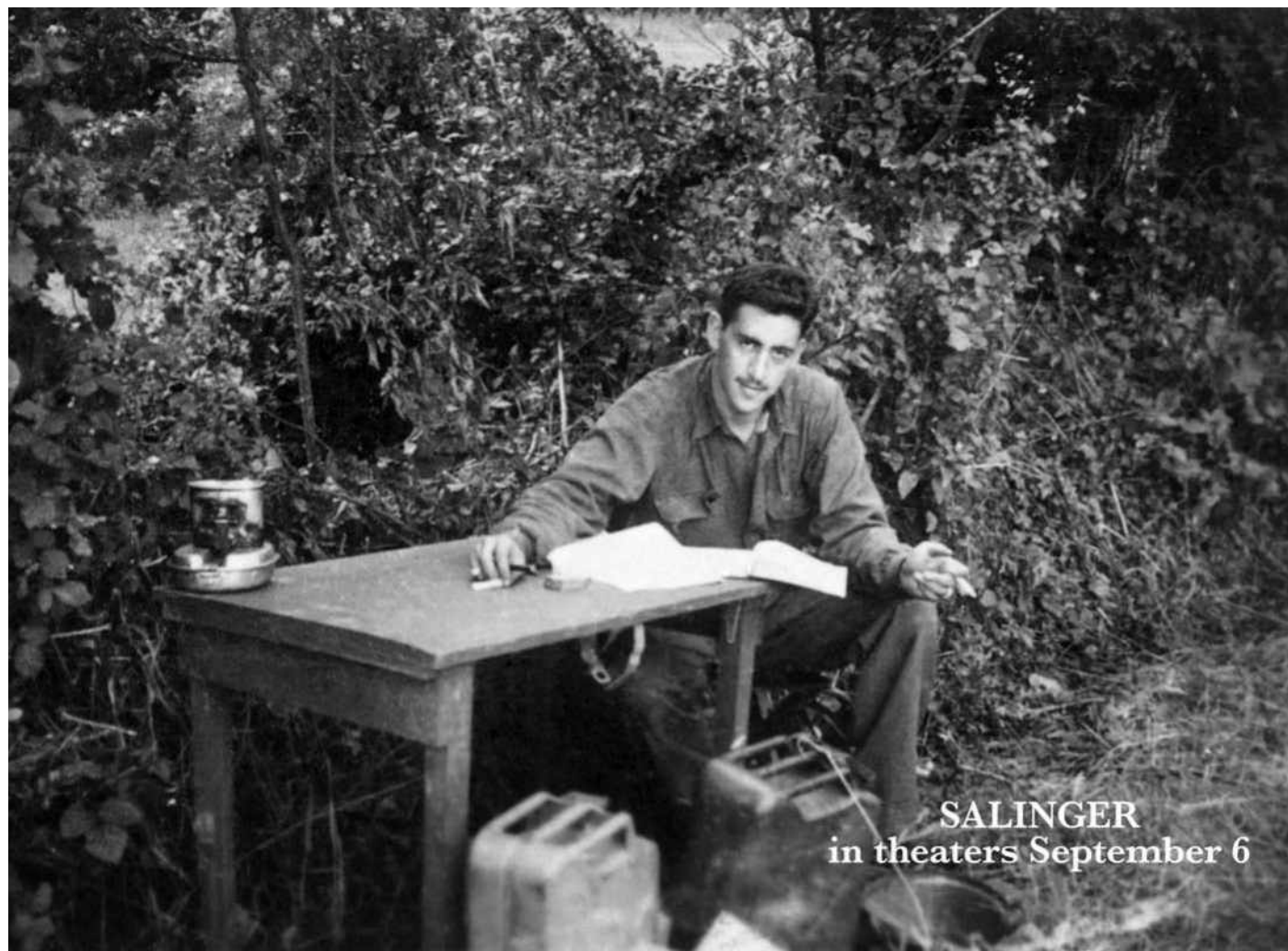
Earnest and energetic with sharp, narrow blue eyes and dark, brushed-back hair that could qualify him as an honorary Baldwin brother, the 40-year-old Salerno seems an unlikely candidate for breaking Salinger ground. He is not an experienced biographer, a trained academic or investigative journalist. He is, instead, a lifelong Salinger fan, a believer and a go-getter who has often succeeded simply by refusing to quit.

"When I get something in my head, I go after it with extreme passion and I went after this for a decade with extreme passion," Salerno, who reportedly negotiated 7-figure deals for each edition of "Salinger," said during a recent weekend interview.

Salerno has come as close as anyone to giving the public a peek into the safe in Cornish, N.H., where Salinger allegedly stashed his unreleased manuscripts. Citing two independent sources, he has alleged that several more Salinger books are on the way, including new material on Holden Caulfield and on the Glass family that Salinger featured in "Franny and Zooey" and other books. No one, so far, has disputed Salerno. Salinger's longtime publisher, Little, Brown and Company, has declined comment. So has Salinger's son, Matthew.

The results of his work can be found, in part, in a 4-room office suite in Brentwood. There are rare editions of Salinger books, including a reviewer's copy of "Franny and Zooey" that includes the critic's handwritten notes ("Owes a lot to Faulkner," reads one comment). He has a rejection slip The New Yorker sent to Salinger, informing him they were not interested in "The Catcher in the Rye." He has folders marked "Personal Letters," "Divorce Papers" and "The Vault/The Safe."

Salerno interviewed hundreds of people and has amassed hun-



This undated image provided by The Story Factory, shows J.D. Salinger working on "Catcher in the Rye" during World War II.

AP

Unlikely Salinger detective spent decade on trail

dreds of documents, letters and photographs. For a time, he had an agreement with a Salinger family member—Salerno won't say who—to cooperate on the project, but the deal fell through. But "Salinger," the book and movie, still features notable new material:

- Photographs, letters and other materials from Salinger friend Paul Fitzgerald, whose close bond with the author lasted from World War II to 2010, the year Salinger died. (Paul Fitzgerald died just months later.) Fitzgerald's son, John, said in an email that his father had always respected Salinger's privacy, but that the family also believed it was time to "shed light" on misinformation. "After many lengthy conversations with Mr. Salerno, I knew that this would be the very vehicle to do so," he said.

- The great prize was a World War II snapshot so tiny that no one at first could make out what it contained. "He (John Fitzgerald) called up and he said, 'I don't know what it is. It looks like he's at a table,'" Salerno said. "I remember sending out my assistant to run out and buy a magnifying glass."

There was indeed a table, with an open notebook or journal on top, in or near a forest. A

mustachioed Salinger looks up with a warm but careful smile, a cigarette in hand. Salerno verified that the snapshot was the only known photo of Salinger working on "The Catcher in the Rye." (A caption on the back reads: "The writer in our outfit, Jerry Salinger, taking time out to pose").

- The end of a decades-long silence by a woman who as a teen in the 1950s formed an intense bond with Salinger and was a model for the title character in his story "For Esme—With Love and Squalor." Jean Miller spoke at length about their relationship and provided letters Salinger sent to her.

- "I felt now I was in a position to tell my side of the story without, as Salinger was dead, betraying him," Miller said in an email. "I trusted Shane to tell my story. He had worked on this for so many years. He had Salinger's best interest at heart. He was not one of these parasites chasing down Salinger."

- Unprecedented detail about his war years and brief, first marriage.

- The discovery, based on an interview with the widow of TV and movie director Peter Tewksbury, that Salinger strongly considered allowing Tewksbury to adapt "Esme"

into a feature film.

Salerno was born in Memphis, Tenn., in 1972, and was raised primarily by his mother as the family moved from Memphis to Washington, D.C. to San Diego. He went to the movies all the time—"theaters were kind of like a babysitter"—and cites two films as fundamental—the blockbuster "The Empire Strikes Back" and a cult thriller, "Thief," Michael Mann's feature debut.

"Basically, my career has lived in those two worlds," he said.

By high school, he was serious enough about movies to make one himself, an anti-drug documentary, "Sundown," that attracted national attention after Larry King aired it on CNN and interviewed the baby-faced filmmaker. Salerno was in such a hurry to get to Hollywood that he didn't bother with college or even attend his high school graduation. Instead, he found work as an apprentice on the crew for "NYPD Blue" and by age 30 had worked on projects with Winslow, Michael Bay and Steven Spielberg.

The idea for the Salinger project came about a decade ago. Salerno was in a Burbank bookstore and picked up a copy of Paul Alexander's 1999 biog-

raphy, "Salinger." Anxious to be his own boss, fascinated both by what he knew and didn't know about Salinger, Salerno acquired film rights to Alexander's book. His original plan: Make a narrative feature and get Daniel Day-Lewis to star.

"I thought Daniel Day-Lewis not only perfectly encapsulated Salinger, but when Daniel Day-Lewis is made up for events he can look strikingly like Salinger at certain angles," Salerno said.

"But I knew that ... he would want to know so much, there was so much research and diligence. So I really began preparing the research in order to prepare for a meeting that I hoped would happen with Daniel Day-Lewis. Then I did a couple of interviews (about Salinger) over the phone and interviews in person and it became clear to me that this was a documentary."

The "Salinger" movie and book have a diverse, unpredictable cast. There are authors (Gore Vidal, Tom Wolfe), biographers (Paul Alexander, A. Scott Berg), friends and former lovers, an unnamed man that former Salinger lover Joyce Maynard once dated and such film stars as John Cusack, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Edward Norton. Salerno says he wasn't trading in on Hollywood con-

nections or simply trying to add brand names for box office appeal. The actors he chose were dedicated fans.

"My belief is that there are people that have pieces of this story, or perspectives on this story, that are valid without them being Harvard or Princeton professors of literature," Salerno said.

"Ed Norton's point of view on certain things can be looked at one or two ways. You can look at it as, 'Ugh, some actor's talking about J.D. Salinger.' Or you can say, 'You ever listen to that guy?' He really has an extraordinary perspective on Salinger."

Salerno, like any top Hollywood writer, is an old hand at never asking for something just once. He was willing to work for years to get contributors. He remembers calling Berg so many times that the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, whose subjects have ranged from Hollywood mogul Samuel Goldwyn to President Woodrow Wilson, lectured him on protocol: Be persistent, but don't nag. Call every few weeks, not a few times a week.

"In my memory, I told him the story of a cat that once went under my house and how at first I kept trying to shout at it to get out," said Berg, whose comments are used in both the film and the book. "And then I realized that I should just pour a dish of milk and place that a few feet from the house and leave the cat alone. I recall telling him to 'Let the cats come to the dish, even if it takes days, months, or years.'"

Salerno didn't get everyone he wanted. He wrote to director John Hughes, a Salinger obsessive whose "The Breakfast Club" was influenced by the author. But Hughes, a Salinger-like figure within Hollywood who left town in the 1990s, declined. John Updike also turned him down.

The book and film feature the famous and the infamous, like old TV footage of John Lennon's killer, Mark David Chapman, who has often cited "Catcher" and its condemning of "phonies" as a reason he shot the ex-Beatle. Salerno even considered speaking with Chapman, currently an inmate at the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, N.Y.

"We started to go down that road, and felt it was such a slippery slope," he said.

Salerno doubts that the film and book will stand as final statements; the recent publicity has brought in a wave of new materials. Sorting through his papers, Salerno shows a Salinger letter from 1967 he just received in which the author disputes his image of being a man who dislikes movies. A tip Salerno learned of the other day could lead to "global news," he says with characteristic enthusiasm.

"There are some surprises ahead," he adds. "This is not over."

Overdrive

Car windows may not protect from the sun

DETROIT (AP)—Car windows are designed to protect you in an accident. But they won't necessarily protect you from the sun.

Automotive glass must meet a host of government standards in the U.S. and elsewhere. It has to let in the maximum amount of light to help drivers see. It has to shatter into tiny pieces instead of shards that might hurt occupants in a crash.

But there are no requirements for sun protection. That can vary by vehicle, and even by window within a vehicle.

Windshields offer the most sun protection, according to Pete Dishart, who leads product development at Pittsburgh Glass Works in Pennsylvania. His company



This undated publicity photo released by Ford shows a 2013 Ford Mustang with a laminated glass sunroof. To ensure a comfortable driving experience, the panoramic roof is made of tinted privacy glass which reduces both vehicle cool-down time and infrared energy.

The layer of plastic helps windshields absorb nearly all of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Plastic is naturally good at absorbing UV rays, Dishart says, and can be made with extra UV absorbers to protect even more. He says windshields absorb 100 percent of UVB rays, which cause sunburn, and around 98 percent of UVA rays, which don't cause sunburn but can do long-term damage to the skin.

That gives windshields a sun protection factor—or SPF—of 50 or more, the equivalent of some of the strongest sunscreens, Dishart said.

Sunroofs, too, often contain UV-absorbing technology that can block around 90 percent of UV rays. That's partly to keep the car cool as well as protect occupants from sun exposure.

But side and rear windows are a different story, and their SPF can vary a lot depending on the vehicle.

Side windows are usually made from cheaper tempered glass, which is around 4 millimeters thick and doesn't include a layer of plastic. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into tiny pieces, to protect the occupants in a crash. But unless they're tinted for privacy, side windows

usually absorb only 65 percent of UV rays. That gives them an SPF of around 16, Dishart says, the same as some of the lowest grades of sunscreen.

That may be all right for people who don't do a lot of driving. But several studies indicate a link between skin cancer and sun exposure while driving, especially for truck drivers or those with long commutes.

In 2007, researchers at the St. Louis University School of Medicine found that in a group of 898 skin cancer patients, 53 percent of the cancers occurred on the left side. Those who spent more hours per week driving had a higher chance of getting a left-side skin cancer. Also, a statistically significant number of the cancers were on areas that are exposed while driving, including the head, neck, arms and hands.

Some automakers are opting for more expensive, higher-SPF glass, not only to protect the car's occupants but also to cool down their cars. Heat from the sun can force the car's air conditioning to work harder, which lowers the vehicle's fuel economy. South Korean automakers Hyundai and Kia use window glass with an SPF between 44 and 48 in their U.S.-made vehicles.

supplies glass to nearly every major automaker, including Toyota, Mercedes-Benz, General Motors, BMW and Hyundai.

Under U.S. law, windshields must be made of laminated glass, which means they're formed from three parts: two 2.1-millimeter layers of glass separated by an 0.8-millimeter piece of stretchy plastic. The glass is made to break easily if something—the driver's head, for example, or a deer—comes in contact with it. The plastic then stretches to absorb that impact.

In Celebration of His New Life

CASIANO BENAVENTE MATSUNAGA

Lovingly known as "Cash"

Born to life on August 5, 1940 and was called to his Eternal Rest on September 1, 2013 at the age of 73.

In his New Life, He now joins:

MOTHER: †Ana Benavente Manibusan

FATHER: †Juan Blanco Matsunaga

REARED FATHER: †Jose Cabrera Manibusan

MOTHER IN-LAW: †Restituta P. Orfanel

FATHER IN-LAW: †Alfredo A. Orfanel

BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND IN-LAWS:

†Fernando B. Matsunaga, †Frances B. Manibusan, †Nicolasa M./Vicente Cepeda, †Heronimo P./Candilaria Manibusan, †Rufina M./Pedro Tudela, †Sylvia M./Antonio Cabrera, †Vicente P./Maria Manibusan, †Josepha M./Santiago T. Camacho, †Rita M./Juan Santos, †Victoria M./Gregorio S. Sablan, †Abraham P./Bernadita A. Manibusan, †Luis P. Manibusan, and †Francisco B. Palacios

Grand Niece: †Julianna Dior Manglona Ogo

His Loving Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Elsie O. Matsunaga

Children/Spouses/Grandchildren:

Basilio O. Matsunaga (Jonauh)

Alfred and Ma. Kristina Matsunaga (Nathalie Giselle and Gaberiel John)

Laura Ann Matsunaga and Stanley Aldan (LyAnces Juanay, Casiano Ramon, Tyrese Isaiah and Seth Dylan)

MaryRose Matsunaga & Jeffrey Caleb Alejandro (Frank Anthony)

Brothers & Sisters and In-Laws:

Francisco B./Nelda Manibusan & Children, Maria M./Moses Sibetang & Children, Dolores B. Manibusan & Children, Veronica Inocencia Palacios & Children, Lydia M./Paul Manglona & Children, Violeta D. Manibusan & Son.

He will also be missed by numerous Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, Godchildren & Friends.

Nightly Rosary is being said at San Vicente Parish at 5:30pm, followed by Mass at 6:00pm.

On Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz (Cabrera Center) to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by the Interment Service at the Chalan Kanao Cemetery.

Please join us in prayer.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.

The Family

Death Anniversaries

Bringing back their loving memories through a gathering of prayers.



Segundo Tudela Sablan
35th Death Anniversary

Josefina Duenas Sablan
15th Death Anniversary

James. Duenas Sablan
47th Death Anniversary

Please join our family in prayers as we commemorate the death anniversaries of our beloved father, mother & brother.

Daily masses will be held at 6a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral from Thursday, September 12th to 16th Monday (5 days only).

On the final day, Monday, 16th, breakfast will be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall immediately after the mass. Please join us.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Jean D. Sablan, Ron D. Sablan, Wm. D. Sablan, Judi (Ynna) S. Robles, Angela Sablan Yamashita & their families.

Life & Style

Charlie Hunnam talks about '50 Shades' role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Hunnam will likely have to bare all and engage in some very graphic sex scenes as the leading man in "50 Shades of Grey," but he says it's not a new dimension for him.

"You know what, I had such a baptism of fire with regards to sexuality on camera at the beginning of my career," explained Hunnam. "I starred in the British channel Four mini-series 'Queer As Folk' where I

played a young, gay character and there were some incredible, explicit sex scenes on that show. So I feel, and now I am 16 years older and more mature so I don't anticipate them being too much of a problem. It's like anything else, just an exciting challenge."

After months of speculation, the 33-year-old Hunnam was chosen to play Christian Grey and Dakota Johnson as Anastasia Steele, the main charac-

ters in the erotic, best-selling novel "50 Shades of Grey," by E. L. James. Hunnam talked about his hotly anticipated role on Saturday night as he attended the premiere of the sixth season of "Sons of Anarchy," on which he plays the character Jax.

One of the directors for the FX show revealed that Hunnam initially turned down the role of Grey.

"One week ago or two

weeks ago, he was on my set when they came back to him and they wanted him to do it because he passed on it once, you know," Peter Weller said. "They came back to him and I said, 'Charlie, Charlie, Charlie, what do you think, this is too pulpy or something?' He said, 'Ah.' 'Well, let me give you the list of actors who did matinee idol style stuff, beginning with Cary Grant let's go there. If you don't do this, I'll burn your house down.'"

However, Hunnam, who also starred in in this summer's robot-monster battle "Pacific Rim," said he wasn't hesitant to accept the role—



AP

Actor Charlie Hunnam arrives on the red carpet at the season six premiere screening of the television series "Sons of Anarchy" at the Dolby Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 in Los Angeles.

rather, he just wasn't sure the timing was right.

"I just, there was a bit of a timing issue where I just wanted to ensure that I was going to have enough time to really do the preparation so I can bring this guy to life and do him justice and when they decided to push the schedule to accommodate that then it was a no-brainer and I was in," he said.

While Hunnam is excited to play Grey, his girlfriend, Morgana McNelis, isn't particularly excited about him filming explicit love scenes with Johnson, the daughter of actors Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith.

Royal mix-up: UK police order prince to ID himself

LONDON (AP)—You might forgive Britain's royal protection unit for being a little jittery.

Two days after an intruder was discovered prowling around Buckingham Palace, police confronted Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, in the royal residence's garden and demanded he identify himself.

London's Metropolitan Police said in an email Sunday that they had apologized to Andrew, also known as the Duke of York, and the royal responded with a touch

of humor.

"I am grateful for their apology and look forward to a safe walk in the garden in the future," he said in a statement.

Wednesday's embarrassing mix-up with the duke followed an even more embarrassing security breach Monday, when an intruder was arrested after having scaled the fence

around the palace. He and an alleged accomplice were arrested on suspicion of burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary, respectively.

The confrontation between the duke and police was first reported by Britain's Sunday Express tabloid, which reported it under the eye-catching headline: "PRINCE ANDREW HELD AT GUNPOINT."

Although the Met's royal protection officers do sometimes carry weapons, the force denied the paper's assertion that Andrew had guns pointed at him, insisting that no weapons were ever drawn.

In comments to BBC television, former royal protection officer Dai Davies cautioned that, even if the story had been blown out of proportion by the press, the incident "does sound a little unusual."



Andrew

In Humble Gratitude

We, the children & families of the late

† *Cayetana Teigita Dela Cruz*

Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends, near and far, for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted unto us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you. May God bless us all.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay & Thank you

Ginen I Familia

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Felix Lizama Babauta

born to life on November 4, 1932 and
was called to eternal rest on September 4, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife: †Juana Camacho Babauta
Parents: †Joaquin Cruz Babauta
†Rufina Lizama Babauta
Parent In-Laws: †Juan Muna Camacho
†Maria San Nicolas Camacho
†Soledad Molina Amores
†Francisco Mori Amores
Son: †Juan C. Babauta
Son In-Laws: †Thomas S. Basa
†William S. Salas
Brothers & Sisters: †Maria L. Babauta
†Serafin L. Babauta
†Benjamin L. Babauta
†Maria B. San Miguel
†Soledad B. Pangelinan
†Jonathan T. Babauta
Grandson: †Eriana DLC. Sablan
Great Granddaughter: †Raymond T. Duenas
Grandson In-Law: †Raymond T. Duenas

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Araceli Amores Babauta
Children/Spouses & Grandchildren:
Susana C. Babauta
(Yvonne & Nino, Maureen & Vince, Thomas Jr. & Mylanie, Valerie & Patrick)
Delfina C. Babauta & Alfred L. Saures
(William Jr., Alvin & Ninamaria, Joycelyn, Robert & Annibelle, Karen Del & Nelson, Kurt Deon & Keesha, Alfred Jr. & Denise, Jefferson & Raquel, Sunshine & John)
Maria B. Diaz & Romeo A. Diaz
(Adrienne & Gene, Christine & Peter, Abraham & Michelle, Nathan, Marja, Patrick)
†Juan C. Babauta
(John Jr., Brandon & Kelly, Bradley & Ignacia, Natalie)
Melvia B. & Vincent A. Concepcion
(Darrell & Jamie, Jerel Jordan & Amelia, Zachary & Michelle, Vincent & Jennifer, Donovan)
Jose C. & Maria T. Babauta
(Jolene & Ken, Marsha & Ivan, Joseph & Nadine, Jesse, Rayleen, Julian Ann & Nick)
Lucia B. & Diego C. Mafnas
(Jenny & Grace, Timothy & Anamaria, Stacy & Dominic, Trevor)
Serafin (Sam) C. & Juanet M. Babauta
(Sam Jr., Derrick & Chanele, Kevin & Jessica, Rachel Joy)
Rebecca B. & Ramon S. Dela Cruz
(Raymond Jr. & Shawna Mae, Leroy & Laborah, Kiomi, Kayla & Jake, Randy & Joylyn, Maynard & Michelle, Jacob)
Bobbie B. & Joe T. Santos
(Darren Jordan, Bojordan, Koby, Jomanda)
Michelle A. Babauta
(Keimeilla, Reineilla, Kervin)
Doreen A. Babauta & Chris Meyers
Kenneth A. Babauta
Brother & Sisters: Dolores B. & †Marceliano M. Castro & family
Rita B. & †Augustin M. Castro & family
Nieves L. Babauta & family
Juan L. & Manuela A. Babauta & family

Daily mass is being offered on the following dates followed by Holy Rosary:

San Roque Church
Thu. Sept. 5th, 6:00 pm, Sun. Sept. 8th 9:30 am (holy rosary at 7pm), Tue. Sept. 10th 6:00 pm
Santa Remedios Church
Fri. Sept. 6th, 6:00 pm, Sat. Sept. 7th, 6:00 pm, Mon. Sept. 9th, 6:00 pm, Wed. Sept. 11th,

On Thursday, September 12, 2013 our beloved's remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 am to San Roque Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Interment services will be at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Dangkulu Na Si'Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Standing ovation for McConaughey at Toronto

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto International Film Festival greeted Matthew McConaughey with a rousing standing ovation for his performance in “Dallas Buyers Club.”

The film premiered Saturday night, giving the moviegoing world its first glimpse of McConaughey’s highly-anticipated performance as a Texas man diagnosed with HIV in the 1980s. Based on the true story of Ron Woodroof, the film follows his frustration with the Food and Drug Administration and his enterprising smuggling of more promising drugs.

For the role, McConaughey lost nearly 50 pounds (22.5 kilograms), and appears startlingly gaunt throughout the film. After the film, though, McConaughey told the audience his weight loss wasn’t the hard part.

“That was the easy decision,” he said. “I would have been embarrassed standing here looking like I do now playing the guy. That really wouldn’t have worked.”

McConaughey’s performance as a hard-drinking, homophobic rodeo cowboy whose illness changes him in many ways for the better was immediately hailed as a sure bet for a best ac-



tor Oscar nomination.

Since sinking into a series of unremarkable romantic comedies, McConaughey has remade his career with a string of more ambitious work, including the male-stripper drama “Magic Mike” last year, and the coming-of-age-tale “Mud” earlier this year. He also co-stars in the upcoming Martin Scorsese film “The Wolf of Wall Street.”

“Matthew McConaughey is doing something spectacular with his life, with his career, and I wanted to be a part of that,” said Jared Leto, who also gives a stand-out performance as a drug-addicted transsexual. “He’s doing some of the most incredibly inspiring work. That was a huge part of my decision. I said, ‘If he’s willing to walk down this path, I gotta get in the ring with him. That’s somebody I want to dance with.’”

“Dallas Buyers Club” will be released Nov. 1.

AP Actor Matthew McConaughey arrives at the premiere of “Dallas Buyers Club” on day 3 of the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival at The Princess of Wales Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 in Toronto.

‘Riddick’ illuminates box office with \$18.7M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Riddick” is seeing light at the box office.

The sci-fi thriller starring Vin Diesel as an intergalactic criminal with built-in night vision debuted in first place with \$18.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. “Riddick” is the third installment in the series, following the \$11.6 million debut of 2000’s “Pitch Black” and the \$24.3 million launch of 2004’s “The Chronicles of Riddick.”

“Riddick,” which finds the

1. “Riddick,” \$18.7 million (\$7.4 million international).
2. “Lee Daniels’ The Butler,” \$8.9 million.
3. “Instructions Not Included,” \$8.1 million.
4. “We’re the Millers,” \$7.9 million (\$9.9 million international).
5. “Planes,” \$4.3 million (\$7 million international).
6. “One Direction: This Is Us,” \$4.1 million (\$7.6 million international).
7. “Elysium,” \$3.1 million (\$21.2 million).
8. “Blue Jasmine,” \$2.7 million.
9. “Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters,” \$2.5 million (\$6 million international).
10. “The World’s End,” \$2.3 million.

alien anti-hero stranded and pursued by bounty hunters on a hostile world, served as a passion project for Diesel and series writer-director David Twohy. After the studio originally passed on funding a third chapter, the pair acquired the rights to the character from Universal and independently secured their own film financing.

“I don’t think there were any mistakes made here,” said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, which returned to the fold to distribute “Riddick” in North America. “Vin wanted to do it. He had to do it on his time.

He was very, very busy with ‘Fast & Furious,’ and I think everything came together as he wanted it to come together.”

“Riddick” also fared well internationally, bringing in an additional \$7.4 million in 22 markets such as the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

“Lee Daniels’ The Butler” fell to second place with \$8.9 million in its fourth weekend at the box office, bringing its total domestic haul to \$91.9 million. The Spanish-language comedy “Instructions Not Included” earned third place in its expanded second weekend with \$8.1

million, giving it a total of \$20.1 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters.

“Typically, the weekend after Labor Day is one of the slowest weekends of the year,” said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. “By Universal releasing a brand-new sci-fi movie with one of the biggest stars in the world, they took advantage of that and came out on top with the No. 1 movie. It gave the weekend a nice boost.”

Dergarabedian said box office totals are up more than 26 percent this weekend over last year when “The Possession” scared up \$9.3 million in the top spot in its fourth weekend. “Riddick” will face stiff competition next weekend when horror sequel “Insidious: Chapter 2” and “The Family” starring Robert De Niro and Tommy Lee Jones hit theaters.



This film image released by Universal Pictures shows Vin Diesel in a scene from “Riddick.”

‘Mad Men’ nearing the end, Weiner debuts a new movie

TORONTO (AP)—Matthew Weiner is accustomed to anxiously guarding the secrecy of “Mad Men.” Talking candidly about his feature film directing debut, “You Are Here,” goes against his practiced paranoia.

“It’s weird,” he says, laughing. “I guess in this case, you really kind of want to tell people what it’s about.”

Then, after a pause, he’s himself again. “But I do think, like all entertainment, on some level: the less you know, the better.”

At the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Weiner premiered “You Are Here,” a contemporary comedy about a Maryland weatherman (Owen Wilson) whose best friend from childhood (Zach Galifianakis) is bequeathed a lucrative country estate by his deceased father. It forces both friends to grow up and face some things in their life.

“A friendship is so complicated and you sort of wonder: What is the purpose of it?” Weiner said in a recent interview. “That’s kind of what I was writing about, these two characters who are bound together by not growing up, and what happens if somebody starts to move on?”

The film, a mix of comedy and drama, doesn’t bear any of the stylish severity of “Mad Men,” his AMC cable TV drama about a Madison Avenue advertising agency in the ‘60s. But its characters do have some of ad exec Don Draper’s melancholy. However, “You Are Here” is a much more earnest story, one that Weiner first wrote (with Wilson in mind) in between his first two seasons as a writer on the mob drama “The Sopranos.”

He spent years trying to get it made, then had to shelve it when “Mad Men” became an Emmy-winning sensation. But his new status also enabled him to finally get financing for the film.

“This is not a graduation for me,” he says. “It’s hopefully just a continuation of my work in a different form. Getting your own TV show, that is really, really hard to do. I’m greedy for even asking to make a movie.”

But, like David Chase did after “The Sopranos” with the

2012 film “Not Fade Away,” Weiner is in some ways going against the currents of pop culture. Because of shows like “Mad Men” and “The Sopranos,” television is where a lot of movie talent is flocking, drawn by its potential for longer, more in depth storytelling, and pushed out by the recent movie industry pull back on medium-sized films for adults.

“I’ve never really understood the hierarchy,” says Weiner. “They’re very different forms to me. I had been encouraged during the many years to get ‘Mad Men’ made to turn that into a feature, and I knew that was a television show.”

For his transition to moviemaking, Weiner, as he says, “cheated a little bit.” On the North Carolina shoot, he brought almost his entire “Mad Men” crew, from his cinematographer to his prop master.



AP Matthew Weiner, writer/director of “You Are Here,” poses for a portrait on day 3 of the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 in Toronto.

“You Are Here” is seeking distribution, but meanwhile, Weiner is writing the seventh and final season of “Mad Men.” For him, the difference between TV and movies is ultimately about their end points.

“It’s really about how much resolution it has,” he says. “Lots of movies end with a here-we-go-again or a sequel, but a lot of the movies I love—especially some of the movies I was sort of trying to emulate here, like ‘Five Easy Pieces,’ or some of the Billy Wilder movies I love, or a lot of movies about friendship, ‘The Last Detail’—when you try to look at these movies, they drop you off at a very different place than where they started. TV shows can do that, but you really don’t want to close any of the knots.”

“As I’m saying this,” Weiner adds, “I’m like, ‘Oh, man. I need to end my TV show.’ Oh, God, I really have to.”

REGAL CINEMAS

Bargain Shows (I) ★ Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply
REFILLABLE POPCORN BUCKET \$3 (REFILLS ALL YEAR LONG)
SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7
Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP
1-800-FANDANGO 1484#

RIDDICK [CC] (R)
Tue. - Wed.(430 PM) 730 PM

MORTAL INSTRUMENTS
[CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(405 PM) 705 PM

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER
[CC] (NR) Tue. - Wed.(400 PM) 700 PM

PLANES [CC] (PG)
Tue. - Wed.(445 PM) 710 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG)
Tue. - Wed.(425 PM)

WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC] (R)
Tue. - Wed.(420 PM)

Pitt attends premiere for '12 Years a Slave'

TORONTO (AP)—The upcoming film "12 Years a Slave" is a harrowing look at slavery, but its stars, including Brad Pitt, say it's a subject that needs to be explored more on the big screen.

Pitt, whose Plan B company produced the film about a free man sold into slavery, was at its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival. Pitt said he was first drawn to the film because of its British director, Steve McQueen, known for such films as "Hunger" and "Shame."

"We started talking to him about what he most wanted to do next and he asked the question, asked the question that no American asked, why aren't there more films about slavery?" Pitt recalled on Friday night. "And that's what he wanted to do. And that's where it started and that's what led us here tonight."

British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor is earning rave reviews for his performance as Solomon Northup, a New York violinist kidnapped and sold into slavery in 1841.

The film, which is already generating Oscar buzz, is based on Northup's memoirs and unflinchingly depicts the physical



Brad Pitt arrives at the premiere for "12 Years a Slave" on day 2 of the Toronto International Film Festival at The Princess of Wales Theatre on Friday, Sept. 6, 2013, in Toronto.

and psychological trauma he endured during his dozen years as a slave. Pitt plays Canadian carpenter and abolitionist Samuel Bass, who helps Northup gain his freedom.

"It means everything," said Ejiofor about his personal attachment to the film. "I was shooting a film called 'Half of a Yellow

Sun' in Nigeria, we were down in Calabar, and I knew I was traveling over to Louisiana the next day to start on this movie. So on the last day I popped into the slave museum in Calabar ... because I was aware that not only were a lot of people taken out from there in West Africa, but a lot of those ships ended up in New Orleans, into Louisiana, and that I was going to be traveling on that same journey obviously by different means.

"A lot of my family are out in the east of Nigeria, so I felt very connected to it all. And then to get out to Louisiana and spend time on the plantations was an amazing experience to me and to tell such a rich story with an incredible array of people was very powerful."

Alfre Woodard, who makes a brief appearance in the film as Mistress Harriet Shaw, spoke about her pride in playing a small part in bringing the story to life on the big screen.

"This picture is long overdue and it's a gift that Steve McQueen has crafted and brought to us," she said. "I think people are going to be so excited. Yes it's a tough subject because most people don't want to think about slavery, but I think that

leaves a void in us individually, personally and collectively."

Some critics have already questioned whether the film is too graphic to find a large audience, but Sarah Paulson, who plays the wife of a plantation owner, was quick to dismiss that argument.

"To not watch something simply because it's painful seems irresponsible to me, and dumb," she said. "I feel like as a culture we so want everything to be watered down so it's easily ingestible, digestible, and that's just not what parts of our story as a nation is, as a country is. I sort of feel like it's important to tell the truth in your art, and this movie is a great truth teller and that may not always be comfortable, but I think it's very necessary."

Actor Michael Fassbender plays the vicious plantation owner married to Paulson. The film marks the third time he's worked with director McQueen ("Hunger," "Shame").

"Hopefully it touches people and they sort of walk away and discuss things with each other," he said. "I don't know the answers, but maybe it poses some questions."

"12 Years a Slave" opens around the world in October.

With Idris Elba, a Mandela with muscles at Toronto

TORONTO (AP)—The Nelson Mandela biopic "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival with a heavy dose of reverence for its subject, and a few extra pounds of muscle, too.

Idris Elba stars as the South African leader in "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," which the Weinstein Co. will release in late November. The film, directed by Justin Chadwick, takes a classical, inspirational biopic approach to telling the epic tale of Mandela's life story.

While the brawny Elba, famed for his gangster Stringer Bell on "The Wire," has a much larger frame than Mandela, Chadwick said he was "the brave choice" for the role.

"We're not going for a looky-like, soundy-like version of Mandela," Chadwick told reports Sunday, after a Saturday evening premiere that drew a standing ovation but mixed reviews. "We're trying to catch the spirit."

"Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" will thus surprise many moviegoers accustomed to the more elderly, white-haired Mandela. While Elba plays him through old age, with the help of make-up and aging effects, he makes a particular impression as a young firebrand revolutionary.

Jason Bateman: First time-director, Toronto hit

TORONTO (AP)—Actors making their first stab at directing are mainstays at festivals, often never heard from again. That is not the case for Jason Bateman.

Over the weekend at the Toronto International Film Festival, Bateman premiered his spelling bee comedy "Bad Words," a foul-mouthed R-rated riot. Just hours after it had festivalgoers roaring with laughter, it was picked up for distribution by Focus Features, with Universal Pictures distributing internationally.

"It was exactly what I would have scripted," says Bateman. "It was pretty surreal to see such a long dream come true."

Bateman's career has already undergone several evolutions, from child star to an "Arrested Development"-powered comeback. His next chapter, he hopes, will be as a director.

"I want to be able not to act," Bateman said in an interview. "My ambition is true."

The film, from a script by first-time screenwriter Andrew Dodge, is about a 40-year-old man (Bateman) who enters a national spelling bee with uncertain motives for sabotaging the children's contest. For Bateman, so



Jason Bateman, director and star of the film "Bad Words," poses for a portrait on day 3 of the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 in Toronto.

often the mild-mannered straight man in the middle of chaotic stories, it's a cathartic shift into a darker comic personality.

He plays a man on a questionable and mysterious mission, with no patience to explain himself or coddle his younger competitors. He calls one 10-year-old Indian boy (Rohan Chand) "Shawarma" and "Slumdog." And that's just what's printable. In the quaint spelling bee environs, Bateman is a cruel but hilarious villain.

"Its humor is similar to mine, I somewhat cautiously reveal to you," says Bateman. "We've all got different parts, and I'm fortunate that I'm friends with a lot of the different parts in me. I know each of those parts really well and I can ask them to come to the party whenever I want."

But the part of the 44-year-old "Identity Thief" actor that most comes across is the seriousness of his directing plans. His models, he says, are filmmakers that mix drama and comedy with an edge, like David O. Russell, Spike Jonze and Paul Thomas Anderson. Of becoming an actor-director, he speaks with careerist clarity of taking "a Ben Stiller route or a Clooney route or an Affleck route." It's a goal he's harbored since he first was exposed to Hollywood by his directing and producing father, Kent Bateman.

"I never wanted to be obnoxious about jamming myself into the director chair any more than the community would truly embrace me," says Bateman.

He and his team, he says, are "reading furiously," pursuing his next script. He hopes to be in pre-production by February on his next directing effort.

Weinstein acquires 'Can a Song Save Your Life?'

TORONTO (AP)—Harvey Weinstein expanded his already large footprint at the Toronto International Film Festival with the acquisition of one of the festival's hottest properties.

The Weinstein Co. announced Sunday that it has purchased the U.S. distribution rights to John

Carney's "Can a Song Save Your Life?" for \$7 million, with a commitment of \$20 million in advertising. The film, from the director of "Once," stars Mark Ruffalo as a New York record producer and Keira Knightly as an aspiring musician.

Also in Toronto from the

Weinstein Co. are "August: Osage County," "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," "Philomena," "One Chance," the concert film "12.12.12" and the documentary "Salinger." The company additionally acquired John Curran's Australia trek drama "Tracks."

Couple wanting private time must stand up to sulking mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 75-year-old man who lives in a gated community. For the last eight months I have been seeing a woman who lives nearby. We are starting to fall in love.

Our problem is her 95-year-old mother, who lives with her. Her mom is pretty healthy and has some money, but she's scared to be left alone. Because of this, my lady and I have difficulty finding private time.

We get out for short periods, but we'd like to go away for a weekend together. If we suggest it, Mom makes a stink and gets nasty with her daughter. We have tried talking with her about it, but she refuses, sulks and won't talk for days.

She's suffering from slight dementia, but gets around OK with a walker. Mom claims she doesn't want or need a "grandma sitter." She wants only her daughter to take care of her and be with her. Any help would be appreciated.

COURTING TROUBLE IN ARIZONA

DEAR COURTING: If your lady friend wants to have any life of her own, she will have to stiffen her spine and deal with Mama. This includes not allowing her mother's sulking to prevent the two of you from having an occasional weekend together.

She should contact assisted-living facilities in the area and find out if they will accept guests for short stays of only a few days or a week. If the answer is yes, Mama should be offered a choice: Either someone comes to stay with her while you're gone, a friend perhaps, or she will have to stay elsewhere because being alone is not an option.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother died earlier this year due to an overdose. His wife and one of my sisters lived with him. They also gave him the drugs that caused his death.

Abby, they are treating Mom, my husband and me like dirt. Mom had no say in the funeral at all. You would think that since she was the mother, the wife would have included her. They have been having parties ever since the funeral and spending the money left and right, while not paying the mortgage on the house.

They have turned my other sister against us, blocked us on social media and cut us off completely. They also turned another part of the family against us. I know it involves drug abuse on the part of all of them. We didn't do anything to them other than bring forth evidence of what they did and confront them.

I have no idea how to trust or to build a relationship with them again if they ever decide to come back into our lives. It's painful to deal with a death, and then more trials on top of that. Any advice?

BROKENHEARTED IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: I'm sorry for your loss, but please recognize that when relatives are as dysfunctional as yours, it's safer for you, your husband and your mother to MOVE ON. And if they do decide to come back into your lives, for the sake of your sanity, run the other way.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Are there any letters or topics you won't touch with a 10-foot pole?

JUST WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: None come to mind. At one point or another, this column has addressed darn near everything and may have offended almost everyone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



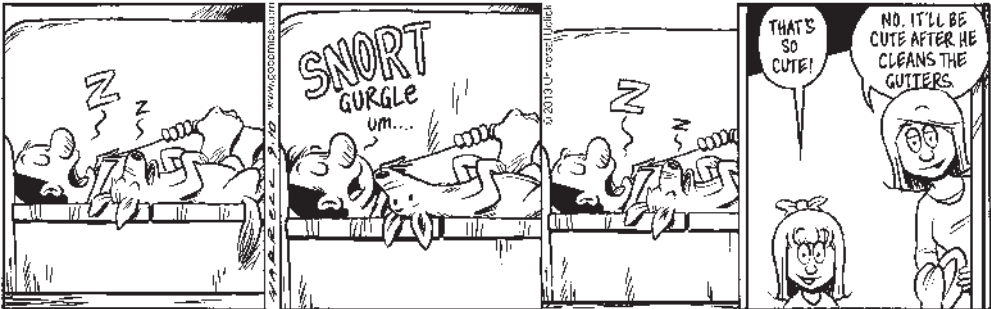
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Shelter, at sea 5 Personal question? 8 Henhouse 12 Neighborhood 13 Listener 14 "Les Misérables" author 15 Forward, to guard 17 Beige 18 Superlative suffix 19 Exist 20 Earthy yellow 21 Saute 22 Tibetan beast 23 Eye-related 26 Hamburger's home 30 Caboose 31 "Ben-Hur" writer Wallace 32 Lotion additive 33 Markedly abrupt 35 Shock jock Howard 36 "Monkey suit"

38 Point fingers at 41 Feathery neck-piece 42 Label 45 Meditative practice 46 Felix, to Oscar 48 Jog 49 Jungfrau, for one 50 One with a huge fanbase 51 Advantage 52 Thickness 53 Information

2 War god 3 Vegetarian's no-no 4 Non-stick 5 Tired 6 Loathe 7 Raw 8 Fischer 9 "That hurts!" 10 Fairy-tale baddie 11 Serve tea 16 Singer Anthony 20 Rowing tool 21 Captain's aid 22 Evergreen type 23 Sphere 24 Apiece 25 Greek cross 26 "Gosh!" 27 Hearty brew 28 Neither partner 29 Longing 31 Illumination measure 34 "— sera, sera" 35 Clothing line 37 Eccentric 38 Memory measure 39 Parliamentary 40 Enthusiastic, plus 41 Weevil's target 42 Mexican entree 43 On 44 Hereditary unit 46 Knock 47 Central

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-10

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 39; Colin Firth, 53; Amy Irving, 60; Joe Perry, 63.

Happy Birthday: You have more options than you realize. Expand your interests and take on extra responsibilities that will allow you to add to your resume. Look at the big picture and don't be afraid to express your ideas and to offer your expertise. Establish your position aggressively, pursue your goals, and work diligently to stabilize your personal, financial and professional future. Your numbers are 4, 11, 15, 26, 34, 40, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you want and what you need are not the same. Don't allow anyone to guilt you into spending to prove your love or dedication. Speak up for your rights and begin making travel plans. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love problems are likely to arise due to a situation being blown out of proportion. If someone begins to overreact, you are best to lay out the facts in a diplomatic manner and carry on with your day. Avoid hasty decisions and arguments. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Home, friends and socializing will all lead to an interesting revelation regarding someone you find inspiring. A work relationship based on a creative connection will bring about a chance to try something new. Love and romance will bring you happiness. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Say less and do more. You may be torn between what someone wants and what you can afford to do. Put greater emphasis on bringing a

unique and interesting alternative to an opportunity that can alter your life or a friendship. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An emotional challenge must not be allowed to take over. Call in favors or schedule your time so that you can take care of situations as they arise. Don't leave anything to chance. Use your imagination and skills to find solutions. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check in with people you have worked with in the past. A new development will create an opportunity that interests you. Partnerships formed now will be unique. Get what's being offered in writing. Security should be your first concern. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Welcome change and turn each new adventure into an interesting prospect. Mix and match the past and present plans to come up with the perfect set of circumstances. Don't fold under pressure or give away too much. Equality should be your goal. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be receptive to different philosophies and ways of doing things. Your ability to mix the old with the new, coupled with your uniqueness and vivid imagination to offer something special, will be well received. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The information you pick up while participating in a cause will help you meet people willing to include you in a money-making plan. Your financial intake, as well as your living conditions, can improve. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take on any personal debt or meddle in emotional situations that can cost you a good friendship. Listen, but don't voice your opinion or take sides. You would be wise to mind your own business and focus on your responsibilities. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change in the way you earn your living or what you learn that will ensure a bright future is apparent. Believe in your ability to excel at whatever task you are given and you will make a noteworthy impression. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will pick up unusual ideas if you get involved in functions related to work or a plan you want to pursue. You will find a solution to a financial slowdown that will get you back in the game. *****

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, courageous and insightful. You strive for peace and equality.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/10

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOT DOGS Solution: 7 letters

ANGUS, BALLGAMES, BARBECUE, BREAD, BROIL, BROWN, BUNS, CEREAL, CHEESE, CHICKEN, CHILI, FILLER, FLOUR, FOOT LONG, FRIED, GARLIC, GRILL, HERBS, LETTUCE, LUNCH, MINCED, MUSTARD, OATMEAL, ONIONS, PINK, POPPY SEED, PORK, POULTRY, PRECOOKED, PRESERVATIVES, PROTEIN, RELISH, SALSA, SALT, SAUERKRAUT, SAUSAGE, SEASON, SKIN, SMOKED, STEAM, THIN, TOFU, TOMATO

Yesterday's Answer: Squat

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Kaepernick delivers to lead 49ers past Packers



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Frank Gore scored a go-ahead, 1-yard touchdown with 5:47 remaining and Colin Kaepernick threw for a career-high 412 yards and three touchdowns, with 13 completions to Anquan Boldin, as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Green Bay Packers 34-28 on Sunday.

Boldin had 208 yards receiving in a spectacular San Francisco debut and Vernon Davis caught a pair of touchdown passes from Kaepernick, who marched his team 80 yards on five plays to take the lead late. The 49ers answered after Packers rookie Eddie Lacy put Green Bay ahead on a 2-yard run with 8:26 left.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 333 yards and three touchdowns, but the Packers departed from Candlestick Park with another defeat eight months after losing 45-31 in the NFC divisional playoffs.

Saints 23, Falcons 17

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 357 yards and two scores as the Saints held on for the win in coach Sean Payton's return from suspension.

Roman Harper secured the win when he intercepted a tipped fourth-down pass in the end zone with under a minute left.

Brees connected with Marques Colston for a 25-yard touchdown pass during which the receiver also set a franchise mark for catches with 533. Brees also hit tight end Jimmy Graham for a 7-yard score in the third quarter.

Matt Ryan passed for 304 yards and touchdown passes to Tony Gonzalez and Julio Jones. He also drove Atlanta to the Saints 3 in the final minute before falling just short.

Chiefs 28, Jaguars 2

In Jacksonville, Florida, Alex Smith threw two early touchdown passes and Kansas City's defense dominated all day as the Chiefs began the Andy Reid era with a victory at Jacksonville.

Jamaal Charles ran for 77 yards and a touchdown before leaving the game with a quadriceps injury, but that was about the only negative for the Chiefs.

Jacksonville advanced past its own 36-yard line just once, a stunning display of offensive futility for the rebuilding franchise. The Jaguars finished with 178 yards, but for most of the game were challenging the team low of 117 yards set last year against Houston.

It wasn't even close to the start the new coach Gus Bradley wanted, but it was a clear indication of how far the team has to go.

Bears 24, Bengals 21

In Chicago, Jay Cutler passed to Brandon Marshall for the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, helping Chicago get the victory in Marc Trestman's coaching debut with the team.



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) is tackled as he is out of bounds by Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Clay Matthews during the second quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013.

It wasn't quite the display the Bears were looking for after making some big changes in the offseason. But it was good enough.

The Bengals led by 11 in the third quarter and were up 21-17 early in the fourth when Tim Jennings jarred the ball from Mohamed Sanu following a reception and made the recovery.

Chicago took over at its 19 and got an 8-yard run from Matt Forte on fourth-and-inches at the Bengals 27 to keep the drive going. Cutler then found Marshall in the front corner of the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown, giving Chicago a 24-21 lead with 7:58 remaining.

Patriots 23, Bills 21

In Orchard Park, New York, Stephen Gostkowski hit a 35-yard field goal with 5 seconds left to send New England to the road win.

Tom Brady set up the decisive score by leading a 49-yard, 12-play drive during which he twice completed passes to convert third downs. It was Brady's 36th career victory in which the Patriots were tied or trailed in the fourth quarter.

Brady finished 29 of 52 for 288 yards passing and two touchdowns in helping the Patriots win their season opener for the 10th straight season.

The new-look Bills nearly pulled off a stunning upset in the first game under coach Doug Marrone and rookie quarterback EJ Manuel, who completed 18 of 27 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns.

Colts 21, Raiders 17

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck ran 19 yards for the winning touchdown, giving Indianapolis its first opening-day win since 2009.

Luck was 18 of 23 for 178 yards with two touchdown passes, but earned his eighth career fourth-quarter comeback by scrambling for a score with 5:20 to go.

Oakland started Terrelle Pryor at quarterback. He was 19 of 29 for 217 yards and one TD, and he broke the Raiders' rushing record for a quarterback with 13 carries for 112 yards.

But he also threw two interceptions in the red zone, the second coming with 25 seconds left in the game.

Lions 34, Vikings 24

In Detroit, Reggie Bush turned a short pass into a 77-yard touchdown in the third quarter and finished with 191 yards of offense to help Detroit pull away from Minnesota.

Joiqe Bell ran for two TDs, including a go-ahead score that gave the Lions their first lead early in the third quarter.

Matthew Stafford was 28 of 43 for 357 yards with two TDs. His last score was a 1-yard lob to rookie tight end Joseph Fauria with 6:47 left that sealed the win.

Adrian Peterson ran for a 78-yard TD on his first carry and scored on a 4-yard run to give Minnesota a 14-6 lead in the second. He ended up with 93 yards rushing.

Rams 27, Cardinals 24

In St. Louis, Greg Zuerlein kicked a 48-

yard field goal with 40 seconds left to lift St. Louis to the comeback victory.

It was Zuerlein's fourth field goal of the game for the Rams, who trailed 24-13 after three quarters.

Larry Fitzgerald caught two touchdown passes from new quarterback Carson Palmer and Arizona's defense had a TD.

Jared Cook had two touchdown catches in his Rams debut. The tight end fumbled a potential third TD, a 55-yarder that would have opened the scoring, when rookie Tyrann Mathieu punched the ball free at the 8 and the play resulted in a touchback.

Jets 18, Buccaneers 17

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Nick Folk kicked a 48-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining after Lavonte David's personal foul penalty kept New York's drive alive, and the Jets pulled out an improbable opening victory.

With the Jets trailing 17-15 and time running out, rookie Geno Smith scrambled for 10 yards—and was shoved while he was out of bounds by David.

The 15-yard penalty gave the Jets the ball at the Buccaneers 30 and set up Folk's winning field goal on the next play.

Things appeared dim for the Jets just moments earlier when Rian Lindell kicked a 37-yard field goal with 34 seconds left.

Smith, making his first NFL start with Mark Sanchez out with a shoulder injury, made some mistakes—a fumble that led to a score and an interception—

but was mostly solid while going 24 of 38 for 256 yards with a touchdown.

Titans 16, Steelers 9

In Pittsburgh, Tennessee's revamped defense sacked Ben Roethlisberger five times as the Titans shut down the Steelers.

Chris Johnson ran for 70 clock-chewing yards, Jackie Battle bulled his way to a 3-yard touchdown in the second quarter, and Rob Bironas kicked three field goals for the Titans. Tennessee's new-look defense did the rest.

Pittsburgh managed just 195 total yards and lost a series of players to injury, including Pro Bowl center Maurkice Pouncey. Pouncey left in the first quarter with a right knee injury and likely will miss an extended amount of time.

The Titans gave up more points than any team in the NFL last season and brought in Gregg Williams as an assistant. His impact was immediate. Roethlisberger completed 21 of 33 passes for 191 yards and a late touchdown, but never got comfortable when the game was in doubt.

Seahawks 12, Panthers 7

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Russell Wilson threw for 320 yards for Seattle, including a 43-yard touchdown pass to Jermaine Kearse in the fourth quarter.

The Seahawks managed just two field goals before Kearse beat cornerback Josh Thomas down the right sideline for the go-ahead score with 10:13 left.

The Panthers held Marshawn Lynch to 43 yards rushing, but Wilson picked up the slack by completing 25 of 33 passes.

The Panthers threatened to take the lead late, but safety Earl Thomas forced DeAngelo Williams to fumble at the Seattle 8. Defensive tackle Tony McDaniel recovered with 5:25 left. The Seahawks ran out the clock from there.

Carolina's Cam Newton was held to 125 yards passing and one touchdown, a 3-yard strike to Steve Smith in the first half.

Dolphins 23, Browns 10

In Cleveland, Ryan Tannehill passed for 272 yards and a touchdown, leading the Dolphins to a win over the Browns, who fell to 1-14 in Week 1 since 1999.

Tannehill, who was given more offensive weapons for his second NFL season, threw a 34-yard TD pass to Brian Hartline in the third quarter and drove the Dolphins to a game-clinching TD in the fourth.

Daniel Thomas had a 1-yard scoring plunge with 6:48 left, putting the Dolphins up by 10.

Miami's Cameron Wake had 2 1/2 sacks and the Dolphins' defensive line sacked Brandon Weeden six times.

Weeden threw three interceptions and the Browns never got anything going in coach Rob Chudzinski's debut.

Rookie Caleb Sturgis kicked three field goals for the Dolphins.

NBA BRIEFS

Knicks' J.R. Smith suspended 5 games

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Knicks guard J.R. Smith was suspended without pay for five regular-season games by the NBA on Friday for violating the anti-drug program. Smith, coming off offseason surgery on his left knee, will sit out the first five games for which he is eligible and

physically able to play. Smith had patella tendon surgery and arthroscopy that will keep him from joining the Knicks when they open training camp late this month. "There is a collectively bargained process in place, established by the NBA and the players association, and until that process has played itself out, it would be inappropriate for the NBPA or J.R. to make further statements about the matter," Ron Klempner, the union's acting ex-

ecutive director, said in a statement. "We all look forward to a resolution in due course." Smith won the Sixth Man of the Year award last season and helped shoot the Knicks into the playoffs before struggling in the postseason. He averaged 18.1 points during the regular season.

Miami Heat considering Michael Beasley signing

The Miami Heat are considering

bringing back free-agent forward Michael Beasley, according to Yahoo! reporter Adrian Wojnarowski. The Heat selected Beasley with the second overall pick in the 2008 NBA Draft. According to Wojnarowski, several Heat veterans are lobbying for management to bring Beasley back to Miami. No offer has been made to Beasley and no deal is impending. Beasley, 24, reached a "termination agreement" with the Phoenix Suns

with two years left on his contract. Beasley was charged with marijuana possession in August which marks the second time Beasley has been arrested for marijuana charges during his tenure with Phoenix. Beasley averaged 14.1 points-per-game during his two-year stint with the Heat in less than 30 minutes-per-game. He averaged a career-high 19.2 points with the Minnesota Timberwolves during the 2010-11 season. (www.si.com)

Wacha's arm, bat lead Cards to sweep over Pirates



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Michael Wacha pitched seven shut-out innings and drove in two runs as the St. Louis Cardinals routed the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-2 Sunday for a three-game sweep.

The Cardinals outscored Pittsburgh 26-10 overall in taking the NL Central lead.

The Pirates arrived at Busch Stadium this weekend with a 1 1/2-game division lead and a chance to cement their first winning season since 1992. They left trailing the Cardinals by 10 games and still stuck on 81 victories.

Wacha (3-0) allowed two hits and walked two, both of which were erased on double plays. He struck out two and never had more than one runner on at a time.

Pittsburgh starter Charlie Morton (7-4) left with discomfort in his left foot in the second inning. He allowed five runs on six hits and two walks in 1 2-3 innings.

This was the last time this season Pittsburgh and St. Louis were scheduled to play.

Wacha (3-0) allowed two hits and walked two, both of which were erased on double plays. He struck out two and never had more than one runner on at a time.

Wacha hasn't allowed a run in 19 2-3 consecutive innings.

"A young pitcher coming in and just staying within himself, really establishing the strike zone early," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "It seemed like he made some really good pitches as he got deeper into the game. He's just making pitches all day. It's impressive."

Pittsburgh starter Charlie Morton (7-4) left with discomfort in his left foot in the second inning. He allowed five runs on six hits and two walks in 1 2-3 innings.

Morton left for Pittsburgh before the game was over and won't join the team in Texas where it starts a three-game series Monday.

Phillies 3, Braves 2

In Philadelphia, Darin Ruf hit a tie-breaking solo homer in the eighth inning to back a strong outing by starting pitcher Cole Hamels and lift the Phillies to a victory and three-game sweep over the Braves.

Hamels (7-13) gave up just two hits, both homers, and two runs over eight innings. He struck out nine and walked two. He retired the side in order four times.

B.J. Rosenberg earned his first career save with a perfect ninth inning.

David Carpenter (3-1) took the loss for allowing Ruf's homer in the eighth.

Evan Gattis hit two solo home runs for the Braves. His first, in the second inning, traveled 480 feet to center field. In the seventh, he tied the game with a long ball that went deep into the left-field bleachers. It was his first career multi-homer game.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Angel Pagan singled home the winning run in the 11th inning to lead the Giants past the Diamondbacks.

Pagan singled sharply off Joe Thatcher (3-2) after Hector Sanchez singled

and Gregor Blanco reached safely on a fielder's choice. Pinch runner Ehre Adrianza beat the throw home.

Javier Lopez (3-2) got the win. Sanchez also drove in a run for the Giants, who split the series with Arizona.

Eric Chavez and A.J. Pollack each drove in runs for the Diamondbacks, who had won three of their last four.

Giants starter Madison Bumgarner threw six shutout innings, allowing four hits. He struck out nine and did not walk a batter. Bumgarner remains winless over his last seven starts.

Padres 5, Rockies 2

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Nick Hundley delivered a three-run double in the seventh inning that lifted the Padres to a win over the Rockies.

San Diego has won five of six games. The Rockies have dropped five of six.

After reliever Roy Oswalt (0-5) walked home the tying run, Hundley hit a sharp grounder down the third-base line off Wilton Lopez to clear the bases.

Nick Vincent (4-2) pitched one inning for the win. Huston Street worked the ninth for his 29th save in 30 chances.

Brewers 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Yovani Gallardo tossed seven strong innings and Jeff Bianchi delivered a key pinch-hit single, leading the Brewers over the Cubs.

Gallardo (11-9) allowed one run and three hits. He is 3-0 with a 1.35 ERA in five starts since coming back from a hamstring injury that put him on the disabled list.

Bianchi keyed a three-run seventh with a two-run single.

Scott Baker pitched five shutout innings for the Cubs in his first start of the season following Tommy John surgery last year.

Nationals 6, Marlins 4

In Miami, Stephen Strasburg got past a shaky start and pitched six innings to earn his first victory in nearly a month as the Nationals beat the Marlins.

Strasburg (7-9) struck out seven and allowed four runs and four hits. He also hit a batter, threw a wild pitch and had two balks. It was his first win since Aug. 11 against Philadelphia.

Rafael Soriano pitched the ninth for his 39th save in 45 chances.

Wilson Ramos and Ian Desmond each had three hits and drove in two runs for the Nationals. Ryan Zimmerman and Ramos homered and Denard Span extended his hitting streak to 19 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

Justin Ruggiano had three of the Marlins' six hits and Jacob Turner (3-6) allowed five runs in four innings.

Reds 3, Dodgers 2

In Cincinnati, Ryan Hanigan's RBI double in the ninth inning drove in Zack Cozart from first base to lift Cincinnati past Los Angeles.

Cozart, who had extended his career-high hitting streak to 13 games earlier, started the rally with a one-out single to left off Ronald Belisario (5-7). Hanigan lined the next pitch past left fielder Carl Crawford to the wall, and Cozart beat shortstop Hanley Ramirez's relay throw with a headfirst slide.

Aroldis Chapman (4-5) pitched a perfect ninth with two strikeouts to get



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Michael Wacha throws to a Pittsburgh Pirates batter in the first inning in a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

the win, which completed the Reds' first sweep of a three-game series against the Dodgers in Cincinnati since June 12-14, 1992.

Jay Bruce hit two home runs for the Reds, who went into the game in third place in the NL Central, two games behind first-place St. Louis, which beat second-place Pittsburgh earlier Sunday.

White Sox 4, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, pinch-runner Chris Dickerson got lost on the bases and was doubled up for the final out as the Chicago White Sox ended a nine-game losing streak by holding off the Baltimore Orioles.

Down 4-1, Baltimore loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth against Addison Reed. After Ryan Flaherty grounded into a forceout at second base that scored a run, Dickerson ran for him.

Dickerson tried to steal second on a pitch to Brian Roberts, who hit a foul pop near first base. Dickerson didn't know where the ball went, and the baserunning blunder made him an easy out at first.

Rookie Andre Rienzo (2-1) pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and Adam Dunn homered. Reed wound up with his 37th save.

Adam Jones hit his 31st home run for the Orioles. Bud Norris (10-11) took the loss for the wild-card contenders.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 3

In New York, Ichiro Suzuki scored on Brandon Workman's wild pitch with two outs in the ninth inning as the New York Yankees overcame Mariano Rivera's blown save to avoid a four-game sweep by Boston.

The AL East-leading Red Sox had won five in a row.

Rivera (5-2) came in to start the eighth for the first time since 2006. Will Middlebrooks' leadoff homer in the ninth gave Rivera his seventh blown save in 48 chances.

Suzuki hit a one-out single off Workman (5-3) in the bottom half, stole second and advanced to third on Vernon Wells' fly to right.

Workman then threw a high pitch that deflected off the mitt of catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia and caromed away off the backstop, allowing Suzuki to score easily.

Rays 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, pinch-hitter Sean Rodriguez had a go-ahead single in the eighth inning as the Tampa Bay Rays rallied past Seattle to build their wild-card edge.

The Rays lead Baltimore and Cleveland, who both lost, by two games for the second AL wild-card spot.

Trailing 1-0, Tampa Bay scored three times in the eighth. Rodriguez broke a tie with an RBI single and another run

came home when center fielder Abraham Almonte bobbled the ball.

Jake McGee (4-3) got two outs and the win. Fernando Rodney closed for his 33rd save in 41 chances. Yoervis Medina (4-5) lost in relief.

Royals 5, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen picked up Kansas City's beleaguered starters with seven solid innings as the Royals defeated Detroit.

Chen (7-2), who moved into the rotation on July 12 after 19 relief appearances, limited the AL Central-leading Tigers to five hits and two runs over seven innings, earning the first victory for a starter on the Royals' seven-game homestand.

Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer off Doug Fister (12-8).

Athletics 7, Astros 2

In Oakland, California, Bartolo Colon won for the first time in more than a month, Seth Smith homered during a seven-run third inning as the Oakland Athletics beat Houston.

Brandon Moss had three hits and drove in two runs while Yoenis Cespedes added two hits and an RBI for the AL West-leading A's.

Colon (15-6) allowed one run and five hits in six innings for his first victory since July 26. The 40-year-old struck out seven and walked one, ending his five-game winless streak.

Lucas Harrell (6-16) pitched when scheduled starter Paul Clemens was scratched about an hour before the game because of a blister on his right hand.

Rangers 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Alex Rios homered in the first inning and drove in the go-ahead run with a bloop double in the seventh, and Elvis Andrus also had two RBIs, as the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels.

The Rangers remained 1 1/2 games behind AL West-leading Oakland.

Alexi Ogando (6-4) won with 1 1-3 scoreless innings of one-hit relief. Joe Nathan, the seventh Texas pitcher, got three outs for his 39th save in 41 tries.

Michael Kohn (1-2) got the loss.

Blue Jays 2, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Esmil Rogers pitched well into the eighth inning and Jose Reyes' late double broke a scoreless tie that led the Toronto Blue Jays past Minnesota for a three-game sweep.

Rogers (5-7) allowed three hits and a walk while striking out four over 7 2-3 innings.

Reyes' key double came against Jarrod Burton (2-9).

Mets 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Eric Young's two-out double in the ninth inning gave the New York Mets a victory that ended Cleveland's four-game winning streak.

Juan Lagares started the ninth with a single off Chris Perez (5-3) and moved to second on a sacrifice. Omar Quintanilla struck out, but Young lined a 2-0 pitch down the right field line.

Frank Francisco (1-0), making his first appearance of the season, got Asdrubal Cabrera to ground into a double play with the bases loaded to end the eighth.

LaTroy Hawkins pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Race bares changes in junior tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Oceania Tennis Federation will be implementing two changes in competitions among junior players in the region.

CNMI coach Jeff Race, who attended a meeting with OTF last month in Fiji, said for the 2013-2014 season, said the two players per country limit in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will no longer be implemented.

“That’s good news for us because we could get more CNMI players to Fiji. This change also means the quality of competition for next year’s POJC will be very high,” said Race, who also went to Fiji to coach the 12 Commonwealth players.

The CNMI could have sent more

than 12 to the POJC in Fiji, as several other local players finished in the Top 4 in the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships held here in June. However, with the two players per nation restriction, only Carol Lee, Tania Tan, Michael Ren, Robbie Schorr, Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Moris Villanueva, Chris Cajigan, Tommy Choi, Amami Sakano, Jake Lee, Mikayla Lopez, and Thea Minor represented the Commonwealth to the POJC. The CNMI managed to have three entries in the boys U18 (Jake Lee, Sakano, and Choi) after a Guam player missed the Fiji trip.

Meanwhile, Race added that junior tennis competitions will switch to the U14 and U16 age groups from the U15 and U18, while the U12 division will remain.

Race an in earlier interview with



Saipan Tribune said this change has a big impact on the CNMI’s junior players, especially those who will be “forced” to move up to a higher age group and face much experience players. Race is hoping players affected will use this change as a challenge to improve their skills so they can keep up with their foes.

The new age group competitions will be implemented later this year, as NMITA kicks off the season with the staging of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic in November.

Jake Lee, seen here going for a baseline return against Amami Sakano during the North Pacific Regional Championships held on Saipan this year, went to Fiji last month to represent the CNMI to the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UFO wants more 20-and-under teams

The United Filipino Organization is calling on all interested 20-and-under and 15-and-under teams to sign up for its 2013 UFO Basketball League.

Coordinator Abner Venus said so far only one team has signed up for the 20-and-under (youth) age group—the Sonics. Meanwhile, two teams have

registered for the 15-and-under (junior youth) competition—Division of Youth Services and Mobil Oil Marianas.

Two other age groups will see action in this year’s competition. The masters or 40-and-over league so far has four teams, namely defending champion Armatech, Wings Travel, MAFEA, and Tan Holdings-Degree.

The open league (35-and-under), meanwhile, has Mobil Oil Marianas, Kanoa Resort, Hoopaholics, KB Market, and Ol’ Aces already expressing interest.

The 2013 United Filipino Organization Basketball League kicks off on Sept. 22 at the TSL Sports Complex’s Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Before the actual games start, the opening ceremony will promptly begin at 1pm on that day. Playing dates for

the league will be Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, if necessary. First game is at 6:30pm and second game is at 8pm.

For more information on the UFO caging, call league coordinator Bok Enano at 287-9756, league commissioner Ed Manalili at 483-4337, or Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands’ Abner Venus at 785-6122. (Saipan Tribune)

SERENA

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lot to me, this trophy,” Williams said, pointing her right hand at her fifth silver cup from the U.S. Open, “and every single trophy that I have.”

That collection keeps growing.

Williams has won twice in a row at Flushing Meadows—beating Azarenka in three sets each time—and four of the past six major tournaments overall. Her 17 titles are the sixth-most in history for a woman, only one behind Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, and the same total as the men’s record-holder, Roger Federer.

“It feels really good to be in that same league as him,” said Williams, who earned \$3.6 million in prize money.

This one did not come easily, even though it appeared to be nearly over when Williams went ahead by two breaks at 4-1 in the second set. She served for the match at 5-4 and 6-5 - only to have the gutsy Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open winner, break each time.

Williams is 67-4 with a career-high nine titles in 2013, but two of those losses came against Azarenka.

A year ago, they played the first three-set women’s final in New York since 1995. This time, they went the distance again, a total of 2 hours, 45 minutes, because Azarenka was superior in the tiebreaker.

“I got a little uptight, which probably wasn’t the best thing at that moment,” Williams said. “I wasn’t playing very

smart tennis then, so I just had to relax and not do that again.”

So after the second set, Williams gave herself a pep talk.

She regrouped and regained control.

“In the third set, Serena really found a way to calm down and restart from zero and quickly erase what happened,” said her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou.

Azarenka helped a bit, with two of her seven double-faults coming when she got broken to trail 3-1 in the third.

That pretty much sealed it, because Williams was not about to falter again.

“She’s a champion, and she knows how to repeat that. She knows what it takes to get there. I know that feeling, too. And when two people who want that feeling so bad meet, it’s like a clash,” Azarenka said, pounding her fists together.

At the outset, though, the 15 mph wind that swirled in Arthur Ashe Stadium bothered Williams as much as Azarenka did.

“It wasn’t pleasant,” Azarenka said.

Williams caught service tosses. She grabbed at her skirt to keep it from flying up. Most troubling, she was thrown off by balls that danced oddly. Six of the first 16 points ended with unforced errors by Williams, which allowed Azarenka to go ahead 2-1.

Looking hesitant at times, Williams did not show the same dominance she had while dropping only 16 games during six victories through the semifinals.

“The wind was unbelievable today,” Williams said.

“It just got worse and worse. It just never let up.”

She needed to adjust, and she did.

Her serve, as usual, made a big difference: Williams hit nine aces, one at 126 mph.

Still, four times, Azarenka was only two points from taking the opening set. At one such moment, with Williams serving at deuce after a double-fault, she was called for a foot fault, erasing what would have been a 121 mph ace. There was another foot-fault call in the second set, too. They brought back memories of the American’s loss to Kim Clijsters in the 2009 semifinals, when Williams was docked a point, and later fined, for a tirade against a line judge over a foot-fault call.

There was no such outburst directed at officials this time, although there was that racket toss. After the call in the match’s 10th game, Williams simply put a hand to her face, composed herself, and won the point with a down-the-line backhand she celebrated with a fist pump, some foot stomping and a yell of “Come on!”

Williams wound up holding there with a 104 mph ace, part of what seemed to be a match-altering stretch. She won five consecutive games and 16 of 18 points to take the first set and go up a break in the second.

“You could see she clicked,” Mouratoglou said. “She realized she was not aggressive enough. She was letting Vika dictate too much, and all of a sudden, things completely changed.”

Well, at least for a while.

Azarenka did manage to make competitive again, which shouldn’t surprise anyone. She was, after all, 31-1 on hard courts entering Sunday, including

a victory over Williams last month at Mason, Ohio.

But when it came time to close the deal yet again, Williams shined. She delivered six of the third set’s eight winners and forced Azarenka into 15 miscues. Soon enough, Williams was hopping up and down after finishing with a service winner. She kept pumping her fist afterward, even while sipping from a water bottle.

“She really made it happen,” Azarenka said. “In that particular moment, she was tougher today. She was more consistent, and she deserved to win.”

Williams became the first woman to surpass \$9 million in prize money in a single season, while topping \$50 million for her career.

She also equaled Steffi Graf with five U.S. Open titles, one behind Evert’s record of six in the Open era, which began in 1968. Williams never had won two consecutive U.S. Opens, but now she has, adding to the trophies she earned in New York in 1999—at age 17—then 2002 and 2008.

Those go alongside five from Wimbledon, five from the Australian Open, and two from the French Open, which she won this year.

“Being older, it’s always awesome and such a great honor, because I don’t know if I’ll ever win another Grand Slam. Obviously, I hope so,” said Williams, who turns 32 on Sept. 26. “It’s different now, because when I won earlier, it was just one or two or three or four. Now it’s like 16, 17. It has more meaning (for) history, as opposed to just winning a few.”

Scoring by quarters: 20-2, 38-12, 48-18, 69-20.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 50 – Borromeo 17, Morales 11, Feria 5, Francisco 4, Je. Cruz 4, Alipio 3, Ogasawara 2, JP Cruz 2.

Rollers 26 – Cobacha 6, Caracut 5, Pangelinan 5, Yu 4, Alonzo 4, Dela Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-2, 23-7, 39-20, 50-26.

3 TEAMS

From Page 28

firing 12 markers. The DA Projects finished the round-robin league winless in five games.

Jared King nailed 20 points to lead three other Ol’Aces players in double figures, Rudy Lazaro chipped in 12, while Jayron Epity and K.J. Nabors added 11 and 10, respectively. Fernan-

do Taman paced DA Projects with his 8 markers.

In the third game, KFC/Taco Bell also held the Rollers to one field goal in the opening eight minutes of the match to seize early control of the duel en route to the 24-point win.

C.J. Morales outgunned the entire Rollers crew, tallying 7 points in the first period, while Art Borromeo took over in the remaining three quarters to

lift KFC/Taco Ball to its fourth win.

Borromeo top-scored for KFC/Taco Bell with his 17 points, while Morales contributed 11.

First Game

Ol’Aces 69 – Ja. King 20, Lazaro 12, Epity 11, Nabors 10, Jua. King 4, Olopai 4, Cabay 2.

DA Projects 20 – Taman 8, Itaas 6, Da. Laxa 4, Rasa 2.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	87	58	.600	—
Tampa Bay	78	64	.549	7 1/2
Baltimore	76	66	.535	9 1/2
New York	76	67	.531	10
Toronto	67	76	.469	19

Central Division

Detroit	82	61	.573	—
Cleveland	76	66	.535	5 1/2
Kansas City	75	68	.524	7
Minnesota	61	80	.433	20
Chicago	57	85	.401	24 1/2

West Division

Oakland	83	60	.580	—
Texas	81	61	.570	1 1/2
Los Angeles	67	75	.472	15 1/2
Seattle	65	78	.455	18
Houston	47	96	.329	36

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	85	57	.599	—
Washington	73	69	.514	12
Philadelphia	66	77	.462	19 1/2
New York	64	77	.454	20 1/2
Miami	53	88	.376	31 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	83	60	.580	—
Pittsburgh	81	61	.570	1 1/2
Cincinnati	82	62	.569	1 1/2
Milwaukee	62	80	.437	20 1/2
Chicago	60	82	.423	22 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	59	.585	—
Arizona	72	70	.507	11
Colorado	66	78	.458	18
San Diego	65	77	.458	18
San Francisco	64	79	.448	19 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRAVES

From Page 28

their first round encounter early last month.

In their second meeting, the Braves were as quick as lightning in stealing bases to score the needed runs. On defense, the Braves neutralized the Dodgers anew, holding the latter to only one run.

The Dodgers scored only at the top of the second inning with starting pitcher Steven Cabrera blasting a double and bringing Jonathan Cabrera home. Steven Cabrera’s RBI double tied the match, 1-all, as the Braves earlier got one run at the bottom of the first with Ian Rogolifo hitting a single and driving leadoff batter E.J. Evangelista home. The Dodgers had a chance to break the tie, as Steven Cabrera made it all the way to the third on a passed ball, but Braves starting pitcher Peter Lieto got his second strikeout for the inning and third after two.

Peter Lieto went to pass his pitching duties to J.J. Lifofoi in the fourth and the latter also punched three strikeouts with his third one leaving Steven Cabrera stuck anew at third base at the top of the fifth inning.

Evangelista then led off for the Braves at the bottom of the fifth and put his team on top, as he singled, stole second, advanced to third on a wild pitch, and stole home. The Braves also stole home in the sixth inning to gain more cushion. The play started with Frankie Lieto hitting a single and making it all the way home off stolen bases.

Now behind by two at the top of the last inning, Joseph Atalig had a chance to move the Dodgers within one and keep his team in the game when he went to as far as the third base off the Braves’ error with only one out. However, he was left stranded there, as Lifofoi picked up a grounder and threw to first base for the second out and then struck out Delin Flores to end the game.

Shirley's Badminton Classic Doubles Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, runners-up Shirley Kim and Loida Ito, champions Alma Ortega and Lucella Lampera, and third placers Elna Curate and Lani Santos pose with their medals in the 35-and-above doubles division of the Shirley's Badminton Classic during the awards ceremony held last week at Nami in Kanoa Resort. Also in the photo is Northern Marianas Badminton Association director Roger Vales, fifth from left and Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario.



The Top 3 finishers in the men's 35-and-above doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 2 finishers in the men's Class C pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 3 finishers in the women's Class C doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 3 finishers in the men's Class B doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 3 finishers in the women's Class A doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 3 finishers in the women's Class B doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



The Top 3 finishers in the men's Class A doubles pose with NMBA officials and tournament sponsors.



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delivers to
lead 49ers
past Packers**
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**Wacha's arm,
bat lead Cards
to sweep
over Pirates**
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28 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Serena beats Azarenka for 5th US Open, 17th Slam



NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams' big lead in the U.S. Open final suddenly was gone.

Her serve was shaky. Her hard-hitting opponent, Victoria Azarenka, was presenting problems, and so was the gusting wind. A couple of foot-fault calls added to the angst.

As a jittery Williams headed to the sideline after dropping a set for the first time in the tournament, she chuckled her racket, which ricocheted onto the court.

When play resumed, in the crucible of a third set, Williams put aside everything and did what she does best: She came through in the clutch to win a major match. Facing her only test of the past two weeks, the No. 1-seeded Williams over-



came No. 2 Azarenka 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-1 on Sunday for her 17th Grand Slam championship.

"When you're always trying to write history, or join history in my case, maybe you just get a little more nervous than you should. I also think it's kind of cool, because it means that it means a lot to you. It means a

See SERENA on Page 26

Serena Williams holds up the championship trophy after defeating Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, during the women's singles final of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, in New York.

3 teams tied for U15 league lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



There is still a three-team standoff for the lead in the U15 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after last Saturday's games were completed at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces got a piece of the top spot, following a 69-20 demolition of the DA Projects in the first game last weekend. The Ol'Aces now has a 4-1 record, the same mark KFC/Taco Bell holds after a 50-26 rout of the Rollers in the third match. Completing the three-



way tie is DYS, which notched a free win in the second game after the Rebelholics (1-4) showed up for the tiff without enough players.

In the first match, the Ol'Aces was on target right at the get-go to take a promising 20-2 lead. The DA Projects never made headway in the remaining three periods, although it managed to score in twin digits in the second canto,

See 3 TEAMS on Page 26

KFC/Taco Bell's Dicky Fera gets tangled with the Rollers' Matt Mamaril during the fourth quarter of their game in the U15 division of the Rotary caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Braves runner steps back safely to first base during their game against the Dodgers in the first round of the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Braves roll to fourth straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Braves stretched their win streak to four, following a 3-1 victory over the Dodgers in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With the win, the Braves improved to a 6-1 record and gained a share of the lead with the Padres. The Dodgers fell to a 1-5 record to remain at the bottom of the team standings in the seven-squad field. The victory was also the Braves' second in as many games against the Dodgers as the former eked out a 3-2 triumph in

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